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LEGEND EXITS

Eminent jurist Fali S. Nariman passes away

NEWS » PAGE 13

STAND-OFF CONTINUES

One farmer killed amid protests

NEWS » PAGE 12

CALL FOR UNITY

'INDIA bloc should ignore differences'

NEWS » PAGE 12

DATA POINT

India's phone export share is only around 2%

Vietnam's share rose to 12% from 1% in 10 years

OPINION » PAGE 11

WHAT'S IN STORE?

Pitch in focus as India readies for fourth Test

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

State anthem: Govt. admits to 'mistake'

BENGALURU
The Opposition embarrassed the Congress in the Assembly on Wednesday, by pointing out that a government notification had left out "private schools" from mandatorily singing the State anthem. » PAGE 6

SI suspended over FIR against 40 advocates

BENGALURU
The State government on Wednesday informed the Legislative Assembly it has taken a decision to suspend Sub-Inspector Tanveer Hussain of Ijoor station over an FIR filed against 40 advocates. » PAGE 6

Traffic restrictions on Ballari Road

BENGALURU
The traffic police have asked commuters to avoid Ballari Road and Jayamahal Road on February 25. » PAGE 4

Let's proceed with IMEC despite Gaza war, says Greek PM

Mitsotakis inaugurates the annual Raisina Dialogue in Delhi; Greece and India discuss plans to strengthen ties in trade, defence and migration

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Despite the Israeli war in Gaza "destabilising" plans for the India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC), India and Greece should persevere with the "peace project", said Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis here.

Mr. Mitsotakis, who discussed the project among other plans to strengthen ties in trade and migration with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to India, also inaugurated the annual Raisina Dialogue here on Wednesday.

"The war in Gaza and turmoil in the Middle East is undoubtably destabilising but it does not undermine the powerful logic behind IMEC. Nor should it weaken our resolve to work towards realising it," Mr. Mitsotakis told a gathering of international delegates at the conference organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), which included several foreign ministers, mainly from European countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Greece counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis during the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi. PTI

"Ground-breaking projects like IMEC hold great promise to supercharge connectivity between India, the growth economies of the Middle East and Europe. To India I say, Greece is your natural doorstep to Europe and beyond," he said, adding that as the country controlling the world's biggest merchant shipping fleet, Greece's geographical position makes it an obvious partner in the project.

During talks earlier in the day with Mr. Modi, Mr. Mitsotakis also discussed doubling trade with India, finalising a mobility and migration pact to regulate legal migration, as well as cooperating on co-production and co-development of military hardware.

At a media event after the talks, Mr. Modi said Greece had decided to join the Indo-Pacific Oceans initiative launched by India.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Manipur HC withdraws contentious part of the order on ST tag for Meiteis

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

A Bench of the Manipur High Court on Wednesday modified its own March 27, 2023 order, ordering the removal of paragraph 17(iii), which had instructed the Manipur government to consider the inclusion of Meiteis in the list of Scheduled Tribes. This direction is said to have triggered the ongoing ethnic conflict between the Meiteis and the tribal Kuki-Zo communities in the State.

The contentious paragraph said the State government "shall consider the case of the petitioners for inclusion of the Meetei/Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe list, expeditiously...", a direction that the Supreme Court had called into question when tribal bodies appealed the High Court's order last year.

State of worry: A file photo of houses that were burnt down in Imphal, during the conflict said to be triggered by the HC order. PTI

When the order [by single-judge Bench of then-Acting Chief Justice M.V. Muralidharan] was made public and within days of the violence breaking out, tribal bodies such as the All Manipur Tribal Students' Union were quick to appeal the entirety of the March 2023 order in the High Court. But after a significant delay, the original Meitei petitioners in the case filed a review petition, seeking only that paragraph 17(iii) be modified, while objecting to the tribal bodies' right to file an appeal.

The appeal filed by the tribal bodies is pending before a Bench led by Chief Justice Siddharth Mridul, and is set to come up for a hearing on Thursday.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Govt. approves 100% FDI in space sector

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet on Wednesday took a series of key decisions, which included the approval for amendments to the existing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy on space sector.

"Under the amended policy, 100% FDI is allowed in space sector. The liberalised entry routes... are aimed to attract potential investors to invest in Indian companies in space," said Union Minister Anurag Thakur.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Draft notification to restructure property tax calculation issued

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

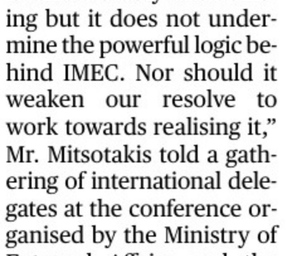
The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has issued a draft notification to introduce a new property tax calculation structure in Bengaluru, proposing to do away with the old system of zonal classification. This comes a day after the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday adopted the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to reduce the penalty on property tax arrears by 50% in Bengaluru city limits.

Earlier, the property tax was calculated based on five zonal classifications, with zones classified as 'A' having high guidance value bandwidth and 'E' having the least. According to BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, this resulted in property owners in A zone paying more tax compared to owners having the same built-up area in other zones.

Although under the Karnataka Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act 2021, other cities adopted a different taxation system based on the guidance value, this was not introduced in Bengaluru as this city comes under the BBMP Act 2020. However, now with the amendments, the BBMP will also implement the same and the draft notification was released on Tuesday, inviting objections from the public, said Mr. Giri Nath. He said this would be implemented from the next financial year. In the draft, the BBMP has proposed to do away with the 'A B C D E' zonal classification and replace it with taxation based on the guidance value of each property. However, the tax slab varies between residential, commercial, industrial and others. According to the draft, under residential properties, property tax for tenanted property will be 0.2% of the guidance value; for self-occupied tax, it would be 0.1%; and for fully vacant land, it would be 0.025% of the guidance value. Under the non-residential or commercial properties, property tax for non-residential property (occupied) will be 0.5% of the guidance value, and for fully vacant land, it will be 0.025%.

New tax structure

For residential properties	
For tenanted property/land	0.2% of the guidance value
For self-occupied property/land	0.1% of the guidance value
For fully vacant land	0.025% of the guidance value
(per sq.ft. per year)	
For commercial/non-residential properties	
For non-residential property/land	0.5% of the guidance value
For fully vacant land	0.025% of the guidance value
(per sq.ft. per year)	



Earlier, the property tax was calculated based on five zonal classifications, with zones classified as 'A' having the high guidance value bandwidth and 'E' having the least. FILE PHOTO

Former BBMP councillor from the Congress, Abdul Wajid, told *The Hindu* this is a fair method of calculating the property tax, and this will end the discrimination that was arising from zonal classification.

N.S. Mukunda of Bengaluru Praja Vedike, one of the first to champion the Self Assessment Scheme for property tax in 2002, said the new proposed scheme for property tax provided a rationale for calculating tax, removing the classification of zones, which at one level was artificial.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

Soon, register properties online

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Soon, people will be able to register their property without visiting the sub-registrar's office if it is bought from statutory authorities such as the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). The Legislative Assembly on Wednesday adopted the Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2024, which provides for ushering in reforms during registration to make it people-friendly, reduce corruption and curb the menace of registration of unauthorised revenue layouts.

If this anytime-anywhere registration system works well, the government will think of bringing the RERA-approved projects under such a facility with some checks and balances, explained Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who piloted the Bill.

He said the Bill provides for the registration of properties and documents without coming to the sub-registrar's offices in cases where the developer is a government-controlled body like the BDA, Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Karnataka Housing Board, and Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka
Government of Karnataka
Department of EI, IT, Bt, and S&T has been awarded
Best Performer
in STATES' STARTUP RANKING 2022
By DPIIT, Govt. of India
GLOVATRIX
Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj & I.T. & Bt.
Sri Priyank Kharge distributing Certificate to the awardees.
Launching young entrepreneurship program for schools & pre-university colleges.
Providing support to women entrepreneurs under the "Elevate Women" program
Building capacities of startups working on sectors focused on renewable energy, sustainability, climate change and rural impact
The State is recognised as
A capacity building pioneer
A funding leader
A procurement forerunner
A sustainable promoter
An incubation hub and mentorship champion
An innovative leader
An institutional champion
K-tech
STARTUP KARNATAKA

Rejection has been a motivation to take guard again: Athapaththu

The Sri Lanka women's team captain and one of the seasoned campaigners did not find any takers during the WPL auction before UP Warriorz signed her as a replacement for England's Lauren Bell

Shayan Acharya

As the Women's Premier League (WPL) auction was underway at a plush hotel in the suburbs of Mumbai in December last year, it was heartbreak for Chamari Athapaththu. The Sri Lanka women's team captain and one of the seasoned campaigners did not find any takers, despite being a standout performer in 2023.

She finished the year with 470 runs at an impressive strike rate of 130.91. Her 15 sixes in the year was also a personal high in Women's T20Is. She also finished as the second-highest run-getter in the 2023 Women's Big Bash League, with 552 runs to her name in 14 innings, averaging 42.46. Her off-spin also got her nine wickets for the Sydney Thunder.

A few weeks ago, the doors to WPL finally opened for her as UP Warriorz signed her as a replacement for England's Lauren Bell.

Ahead of her latest assignment, Athapaththu - considered one of the most powerful hitters in the game- is confident of showing the world what she is capable of doing on the field.

"Auctions are not in my hands. Rejection has been some sort of a motivation for me and I want to show again what I can do on the field. I hope I can play my best cricket in this WPL," Athapaththu told The Hindu.

The 34-year-old was front and centre of a good year for the Sri Lankan women's game and hopes the same will hold true for her stint with the Warriorz.

"2023 was a good year as a team, as a captain and as a player. We beat England on their home soil and secured our first-ever white-ball series win against them. Then, we went on to defeat New Zealand in Sri Lanka for the first time, so we had some really good achievements. To cap it all, I won the player of the tournament in the Women's Big Bash League and a few ICC awards. I was also nominated as the ODI captain of the year by the ICC. These are massive achievements, but then, everyday begins from scratch. Every tournament is new and I want to start all over again," she added.

Given that she is a late entrant into the Warriorz scheme of things, it is important to gain role clarity as soon possible, particularly when the pool of international players is as big as the one this franchise has.

"The first day I trained with the girls, I had a good chat with the coach and the management. I want to be a good team player. I can adjust according to the needs of the team. I know we have a few openers in the team, especially Danielle Wyatt and Alyssa Healy. Even Tahlia McGrath and Grace Harris can open, so there are a lot of big names in my team and the best eleven will play. If the team management and the coach picks me, I will definitely give my 100 per cent for the team. That's what I will do," Athapaththuy said.

Athapaththu is no stranger to Indian conditions and is raring to go at the batter-friendly M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru which will host the first half of the tournament.

"The Sri Lankan and Indian conditions are a bit similar. So, when I feature in the WPL, I need to do very little adjustments to my game. I know the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, I played a lot of matches there and I know the conditions are. So, that will be of immense help," she explained.

> Everyday begins from scratch. Every tournament is new and I want to start all over again
> **CHAMARI ATHAPATHTHU**

Last year, the WPL was hosted across two venues in Mumbai. This time, the league has expanded to bring in Bengaluru and New Delhi into the fold - a move Athapathu welcomes.

"The men's IPL is also played in different venues and different grounds, so it's really good for the players as they get to experience different conditions. As a player, I am happy to play the tournament in two cities. Maybe, next year, they would organise the tournament across three or four venues and that will be good. Change is important and now as the women's game is progressing, things are also changing immensely in terms of good facilities and other aspects," she signed off.

THE GIST

- Athapaththu finished 2023 with 470 runs at an impressive strike rate of 130.91
- Her 15 sixes in the year was also a personal high in Women's T20Is
- She finished as the second-highest run-getter in the 2023 Women's Big Bash League, with 552 runs to her name in 14 innings, averaging 42.46
- Athapaththu is a globe-trotting T20 specialist having represented franchises like Melbourne Renegades, Perth Scorchers and Sydney Thunder in the WBBL, the Supernovas in the now-defunct Women's T20 Challenge (WPL's predecessor), Falcons (Fairbreak Global) and Northern Districts (Super Smash)

'It was my father's dream for me to don the India jersey some day'

Lavanya Lakshmi Narayanan

The Women's Premier League is a platform that has allowed several cricketers to take a step closer to either global recognition, an India cap, or, in some cases, both. Take Mumbai Indians' Saika Ishaque or Royal Challengers Bangalore's Shreyanka Patil. Both promising talents at the domestic level were eventually catapulted into the Indian national side thanks to commendable performances in the inaugural season of the WPL, a turn of events Tarannum Pathan perhaps hopes will happen for her too.

While Tarannum's WPL journey is awaiting its start, the Gujarat Giants player (picked in the auction for ₹10 Lakh) has come a long way. Having dedicated over a decade to registering consistently commendable performances in the domestic scene, she feels this WPL call-up is vindication.

"I expected to be picked in the WPL last year, but we've always been practical about outcomes at home," Tarannum told *The Hindu*. "Last season, the auction was on February 13th, and this year, I was travelling to join the team on the same date. Looking back at how much life has changed in a year, all I can say is wow," she added.

For Tarannum, cricket is a gift her family gave her. She began playing the game as a 13-year-old with her father, brother and uncles doing all they could to support her ambitions.

"Cricket ka kheeda runs in my family. My father, uncle, brother all loved the game. There was a ground behind our house and I began playing there. When I was in class seven, one of my neighbours told my uncle that I have talent that should be nurtured. Back then, the only names we had heard of from the women's game were those of Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami," she narrated.

"As I grew older, my father and uncles stepped up to work towards making me a cricketer. My brother would play school tournaments and would take me along to bowl to his teammates."

"My grandfather was against me playing. But my grandmother, despite being someone with very conservative principles, supported me immensely. There was never a conversation about not being able to play because we are from a traditional Muslim family. Around my house too, so many women from my community have slowly taken up the game after seeing how far we've come," she said.

Tarannum lost her father in 2020 to mouth cancer. She describes the months leading up to his demise as life changing in more ways than one.

"The six months leading up to his demise was difficult and I saw how desperately he was trying to stay alive. It's hard to not motivate yourself to keep going after that. It was my father's dream for me to play cricket and don the India jersey some day. Whenever I step on to the field, his face is all I would see. He's done so much, I cannot take a step back any more. Whatever happens I need to keep moving forward," she added.

The women's cricket ecosystem almost transformed overnight after India finished as runner-up in the 2017 ODI World Cup. The side's performances, the recognition the women in blue received and the calls for more professionalism in the women's vertical meant progress trickled through as many levels of the game as possible. Tarannum believes the WPL takes that progress forward at a faster rate.

"Before, women cricketers struggled with finding sponsors, financial support, contracts. Any change would take years to find form but the 2017 World Cup changed everything. Now, there's a new name emerging almost every other day. Saika Ishaque and Shreyanka Patil are all examples of this. The WPL is now a platform that the world has its eyes on and it's not being done for the sake of it. The league is being run in the most professional way. Now there are people pumping money into this sport. This is motivating aspiring players to also put money into their careers in seeking professional nutrition, fitness and medical support. Earlier, player food diets were extremely unscientific. Now, there's a lot of awareness and resources available for people," she said.

Tarannum has represented India-A and was the first woman from Baroda to be picked for the national camp back in 2010. The off-spinner has toiled away year after year in the domestic circuit, with more than 200 wickets to her name across formats. Despite being a mainstay in the outfit and even captaining the side, Tarannum felt she wasn't getting her due in the set-up and took up a move to Goa last year.

"I never wanted to leave Baroda. Despite falling out of favour in terms of the selections, I would still keep following what the team did. It's all about timing. I got a good offer from Goa. I spoke to my family about spending a year away in another set-up. Somehow, it ended up benefiting me as it all contributed to my selection in the WPL," she explained.

The cricket culture in Baroda and Goa are as different as chalk and cheese, a gap that allowed Tarannum to appreciate the resources she has always had access to.

"Goa is a State with a flourishing football scene. Cricket isn't the main scene there. Baroda has a vibrant scene with a number of role models – be it Irfan and Yusuf Pathan, Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya, Yastika Bhatia, Kiran More etc. It isn't hard to find a source of inspiration. In Goa, almost all players travel from afar to make it to training early in then morning. Imagine the dedication required to wake up early, pack food and travel distances to turn up for the love of the game. It's very inspiring. I also had a lot of support during my stint here," she added.

Cricket now brings Tarannum to Bengaluru and the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, a batting haven and a venue known for its passionate fanbase.

"I love Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL and I am a huge Virat Kohli fan. I am excited to play in the team's city. We've all seen the crowds chanting "RCB, RCB" for the men's game. I am waiting to see that for women's cricket and hopefully even turn some of them into Gujarat Giants supporters," she concluded.

INBRIEF

Water supply to be affected on February 27

Water supply to several parts of the city will be affected from 6 a.m. of February 27 to 6 a.m. of February 28 following emergency maintenance works and installation of UFW (unaccounted for water) bulk flow metres. The areas that will be affected include Srinivasa Nagar, Jai Maruthi Nagar, Muneshwaranagar, Mallathahalli, Sunkadakatte, D Group Layout, Papareddypalya, Bilekallu, Bydarahalli, Ullal, Sir M. Visvesvaraya Layout, 1st to 9th Block. HMT Layout, Nisarga Layout, Bagalgunte, Dasarahalli, Jalahalli, Peenya Industrial Area, Laggere, Rajagopalnagar, Hegganahalli, Kottigepalya. Dubasipalya, Kamakshipalya, Pattegarhpalya, Govindarajanagar. New Byappanahalli, G.M. Palya, Malleshpalya, Maruthi Nagar, Indiranagar 1st Stage, Kodihalli, Kasavanahalli, Kaikondanahalli, OMBR Layout, Chikkabanaswadi, Kasturinagar, J.P. Nagar, 8th Phase, 9th Phase, and Kothanur Dinne.

From Page One

Soon, you can register properties online

Similarly, the registration of mortgage deeds and title deeds too can be done without visiting the sub-registrar's offices if the property is being pledged with any nationalised bank. The Minister said the main intention of the Bill was to prevent the number of footfall at these offices, which are crowded, by providing an alternative avenue.

Electronic khata

Pointing out that though the government had earlier ordered an inquiry into fraud and financial losses to the tune of ₹400 crore for the government through registration of revenue layouts through fake khatas in Bengaluru, he said it was not possible to act against sub-registrars then due to the loopholes in the law. Hence, an appropriate amendment had now been made to make it mandatory to obtain an electronic khata, which is validated through the Kaveri software of the Stamps and Registration Department, for registration of properties, Mr. Gowda noted.

The Assembly also adopted the Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to prohibit collection of stamp duty through demand draft and pay order by the Inspector-General of Stamps and Registration and their sub-ordinate offices and thereby prevent leakage of revenue.

Draft notification to restructure property tax calculation issued

"Given that the State Budget sets a high target of ₹6,000 crore for property tax for 2024-25, the new property tax structure will mostly only mean a hike in taxes. BBMP has also imposed a 20% cap on the rise in property tax, which means the gap between property tax and the guidance value of the property is huge. As citizens, we also need to accept that we need to pay more property tax to strengthen BBMP and reduce its reliance on state and union governments," he said.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated February 22, we have an interview with Prof. Reetika Khera, economist and professor at IIT-Delhi, who surveyed Indira Canteens as part of her research on government-run community kitchens.

Premium FAR may lead to higher density development in areas not serviced by mass transport: Experts

'Govt. reverting to traditional mode of providing FAR based on road width across city can potentially add to congestion'

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The provision to allow Premium Floor Area Ratio (FAR) up to 60% depending on the width of the road across the city essentially means that the State government has given the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) along Namma Metro corridors a pass. This may lead to higher density of development in areas not serviced by Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS), stretching infrastructure, and may add to traffic congestion, experts and civic activists fear.

Significantly, the Draft Revised Master Plan-2031 was scrapped to integrate TOD linking MRTS and land use into the master plan as per Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) introduced by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), which gave FAR up to 5% in the immediate Impact zone of Namma Metro. However, the State government, by bringing The Karnataka Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2024, has now gone back to square one.

"The city has chosen to go the TOD way with a view to densify corridors along Namma Metro, and may be later along suburban rail, to increase the share of public transport. Now that the State has gone back to the traditional mode of providing FAR based on road width across the city, it can potentially lead to high density development away from MRTS, which essentially means adding to congestion," said a senior urban planner, who did not wish to be named.

Another urban planner said that FAR should always be a tool of planning, but it was clear from the State government's move that Premium FAR was being used as a fiscal tool, which is not a good sign. The State Budget presented on February 16 said: "Additional non-tax resources of ₹2,000 crore will be mobilised through revised advertisement policy and premium FAR Policy," in Bengaluru.

However, there are others who feel that given the lax regulation in the city, Premium FAR may have the same fate as that of Transferrable Development Rights (TDR), which failed to take off. "Builders are violating building bylaws without any fear of consequences. The same government promises to remove oversight over plan approvals and allow self-declaration and also push for Akrama Sakrama. In such a scenario, only genuine big builders may buy premium FAR and others will violate with impunity. Premium FAR or TDR will only work when the regulatory mechanism and its enforcement is strict in the city," said civic activist N.S. Mukunda of Bengaluru Praja Vedike.

The industry welcomed Premium FAR, but with caveats. "Premium FAR will be of good use and the government will also make money out of it. But at the same time, the government should also frame rules for TDR, so that we can use the TDR we have now. Otherwise, that will become a dead investment. Premium FAR alone will not work," said Suresh Hari, secretary, CREDAI-Karnataka.

Legally challenge

Vijayan Menon of Citizen Action Forum (CAF), that has earlier fought the zoning regulations case, said that as far as Bengaluru was concerned, Premium FAR cannot be brought in through this mode, but only through a Master Plan, for which civic elections need to be held and Bengaluru Metropolitan Planning Committee has to be constituted. "So the process through which this is being attempted is wrong and CAF will challenge it," he said.

Proposed norms for premium FAR

Road width	Premium FAR allowed	Composition
0 - 9 m	0	0
9 - 18 m	20%	Full premium FAR
18 - 24 m	40%	⅔ premium FAR + ⅓ TDR
Over 24 m	60%	⅔ premium FAR + ⅓ TDR

- Source: UDD Department
- Premium FAR will be valued at 40% of the guidance value of the property
- To be notified in rules under The Karnataka Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2024
- FAR: Ratio of the gross built-up area of a building to the size of the plot of the land on which it is built.

Five-year-old boy, pedestrian killed in accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two persons, including a five-year-old boy, were killed in separate accidents in the city on Tuesday evening.

A woman and her son, who were walking by the roadside in Hoskote, were hit by a speeding bike. The duo fell down. A speeding Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation bus that was coming from behind ran over the boy, killing him on the spot. The woman sustained serious injuries. The deceased has been identified as Urtav. The injured Vasantha hails from Raichur and was working as a construction labourer on the city's outskirts and was residing at Kannamangala. They were returning home from a clinic when the accident happened.

In another incident, a speeding water tanker lost control, turned turtle, and hit a pedestrian, killing him on the spot in Peenya. The deceased was identified as Imanuddin, 20, a resident of the same area. He was returning home from work.

Death toll in deodorant unit fire near Kumbalgodu rises to four

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The death toll in the deodorant unit fire near Kumbalgodu has risen to four.

In the accidental fire on Sunday, three people were killed on the spot and five injured. Of the injured, a 15-year-old boy Sajid Pasha succumbed to his injuries at Victoria Hospital, on Wednesday morning. The boy had suffered severe burns. The condition of the four others is also critical, sources said.

The remains of a building after the fire at the deodorant unit near Kumbalgodu on Sunday. FILE PHOTO

The fire broke out when eight labourers were working at the unit. They were breaking down empty deodorant and perfume bottles to dispose them of, when the fire broke out.

Mysuru zoo translocates 40 deer to Dandeli

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

In a major translocation exercise, the Mysuru zoo successfully shifted 40 spotted deer in its collection to the Pansoli range in Kali tiger reserve in distant Dandeli in Uttara Kannada district.

The animals, accompanied by the zoo staff, were shifted from the zoo on February 20 and reached safely in Dandeli on February 21 after an overnight journey in trucks.

Notably, there was zero per cent mortality reported during the exercise.

Zoo executive director D. Mahesh Kumar said the deer were crate trained for the past three months for the translocation exercise.

"An enclosed area of 2.5 acres in the tiger reserve has been designed to quarantine the animals. This allows the deer to acclimatise to their new surroundings.

"During the period, they were tested for fitness and health. Initially, the animals are supplemented with the zoo diet and are gradually reduced over a period of time," Mr. Mahesh said.

Two bike lifters arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The East Division police arrested two persons in two-wheeler lifting cases in the city recently.

Probing a two-wheeler theft case reported in Marathahalli on January 24, the police arrested the duo hailing from Andhra Pradesh. The interrogation led the police to crack 36 two-wheeler theft cases and recover 40 two-wheelers.

In another case, the Kadugodi police arrested one person and recovered the 19 two-wheelers he had stolen.

THtalksBengaluru with KSEAB chairperson on February 26

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to conduct three annual examinations for SSLC and II PU students from this year. To clear any confusion or anxiety about the exam among students, *The Hindu* has organised THtalks-Bengaluru, an online interaction with N. Manjushree,chairperson, Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB), on February 26 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Log on to https://youtube.com/live/j3zBvr-ODCI?feature=share to chat with the chairperson live, or mail your questions to us at thtalksbengaluru@thehindu.co.in

Manjushree

BUSINESS CONNECT A Business Initiative

Mantri Developers Valentine's Week Special: A Celebration of Home and Life Key to your heart key to your home

Mantri Serenity Kanakapura Road and Mantri Webcity Hennur Road hosted a series of special programs for their Valentine's week special event. From stand up comedy to movie nights, from magic shows to romantic dinners, they had something for everyone to enjoy and cherish. The guests were also delighted by the exclusive offers for booking a home at Mantri Serenity and Mantri Webcity during the event. Many of them took advantage of this opportunity and joined the Mantri family. Mr. Virendra, Chief Marketing Officer - Residential, Mantri Developers Pvt. Ltd. said they are proud to say that their event was a huge success, with positive feedback from their residents and guests, and a high number of bookings and closures. He thanked all the dignitaries, associations and participants for making the event a memorable one. Mantri believes in creating a wholesome community living experience for their customers. Mantri Developers look forward to welcoming many more into their family.

Kinder Hospital Pledges Rs 2 Crore for 100-150 Free Surgeries, Empowering Economically Weak Women

It was a blessing in disguise for hundreds of women suffering from gynecological issues as they received the highest quality treatment, and those requiring surgeries will be freely operated upon under the noble and first-of-its-kind "Kinder Maa Jeevana" program. This groundbreaking CSR initiative will provide free gynecological surgery to underprivileged women. The program was officially inaugurated at the SKG Kalyana Mantapa, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru. Inaugurating the programme, former MLA Aravind Limbavali spoke about every individual who deserves an access to essential needs and Kinder Hospital's initiative is a ray of hope. He wished such endeavors continue to flourish. Actress Harshika Poonachcha, a special guest at the event, added her voice to the chorus of support. Dr. VK Pradeepakumar, Chairman of Kindorama Health Care Pvt Ltd, affirmed Kinder Hospital's unwavering commitment. The Kinder Ma Jeevan Yojana promises a lifeline to the women of Mahadevpur. Over the next year, this scheme will provide critical surgical interventions for severe gynecological issues, catering specifically to economically disadvantaged women in the area. With a budget of Rs. 2 crore earmarked for the initiative, the Trust aims to offer free surgeries to 100 to 150 women, fostering a healthier, more equitable society. Mr. Renjith Krishnan, CEO of Kinder Group, Dr. Sushanth Shivaswamy (Senior Consultant, Pediatrics and Neonatology at Kinder Hospital) were present.

WIPS conclave envisions women as 'indispensible catalysts' for progress

The 34th annual conclave of the Forum of Women in Public Sector (WIPS) turned the spotlight on the need to recognise women as indispensible catalysts for progress. The theme for this year's WIPS conclave, held in Bengaluru 'Women - The Future of Sustainable Growth'. Her Highness, the Maharani of Mysore, Smt Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, inaugurated the conclave and spoke at length on how the role of women in Public Sector Enterprises had evolved over the years with a positive shift towards inclusivity and gender equality. She expressed her pride in her family's legacy of granting women voting rights and property rights. Mr Atul Sobti, Director General of SCOPE, was the Guest of Honour. Addressing the gathering, he lauded women for their significant contributions to India's GDP and socio-economic development. Mrs Varsha S Raut, President, WIPS (APEX), said: "Women bring a fresh approach to problem-solving and decision-making, often prioritising collaboration, empathy and long-term thinking." The national event was a big draw with around 700 participants from PSEs across the country. It focussed on the pivotal role played by women in driving sustainable growth. Recognising women as indispensable catalysts for progress, the discussions delved into their multifaceted contributions across various sectors. The two-day conclave featured eminent speakers from a gamut of fields.

High Court orders status quo on process of widening national highway near Kollur Mookambika temple

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered maintenance of status quo on the nature of acquisition land and other activities initiated for widening National Highway 66 near the Sri Mookambika temple, Kollur in Byndoor taluk of Udupi district.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice P.S. Dinesh Kumar and Justice T.G. Shivashankare Gowda, passed the order on a PIL petition filed by Guruprasad, a devotee.

The petitioner had specifically questioned the notification issued on October 10, 2023, by the Assistant Commissioner, Kundapur taluk on behalf of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for acquiring various land, which include a land at survey number 12 around the temple.

The petitioner pointed out that the temple has a history of over 1,200 years and hence, it is a deemed to be protected ancient temple

Pointing out that the temple has a history of over 1,200 years and hence it is deemed to be protected ancient temple as per the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, the petitioner said that construction of NH in close proximity of the temple not only posed danger to the structures of the temple but also severely impacted activities of the temple.

It has been pointed out in the petition the land at survey number 12, notified for acquisition, is used for various activities of the temple, including car festival and annual feasts, and acquisition of this land would result in hampering the age-old traditions and rituals being conducted in the temple using this land.

"Constructing a national highway in close proximity to the ancient temple raises valid concerns about potential damage, both physical and spiritual," the petitioner has contended.

The petitioner has complained that he and several other devotees had submitted objection for acquisition of this land but the authorities have proceeded further without considering the objection though it was mandatory to give opportunity of hearing as per Section 3C of the National Highways Authority Act, 1956.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, FEB. 22	
RISE	06:39 SET 18:27
RISE	16:50 SET 05:12
FRIDAY, FEB. 23	
RISE	06:39 SET 18:27
RISE	17:40 SET 05:54
SATURDAY, FEB. 24	
RISE	06:38 SET 18:27
RISE	18:27 SET 06:32

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	23
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	33	21

Bengaluru Today
32°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night will remain slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Astronomers find the small, hot helium stars they were looking for

Most stars with more than eight solar masses are expected to be part of binary system, so it is reasonable to expect numerous binary-stripped helium stars. Yet so far, astronomers have found exactly one in the mass range of eight to 25 solar masses, and have been looking for the others

Anantharaman S.V.

An artist's impression of a kilonova explosion following the merger of two neutron stars. A newly discovered type of star-pairs in space may end their lives to become neutron stars, which later produce kilonova explosions that release gravitational waves. REUTERS

Astronomers have finally found a unique class of stars they had been looking for for a decade. While these stars – hot and relatively small orbs covered in helium – were predicted to be fairly common, astronomers hadn't been able to find them.

The discovery provides proof that the underlying theories are legitimate. Since stars are cosmic engines, it also opens new doors to understanding their diverse influences on the universe, from the creation of heavy elements to the release of gravitational waves.

Led by assistant professor Maria Drout of the University of Toronto, the research team found these stars after spending seven years labouring with a simple working hypothesis, extensively cataloguing thousands of stars, and testing different assumptions.

Push v. pull

Look at the Sun for a moment (while shielding your eyes) and ask yourself why it doesn't collapse onto itself. Newton's law of gravity says all objects with mass attract each other. This should mean the Sun's outer and inner layers should be attracted to each other, so the star should continuously fall inwards, and eventually simply collapse. Yet we see the Sun rising every day, as it did yesterday and will tomorrow.

This is because nuclear fusion prevents the Sun from shrinking. In the heart of the star, chemical reactions merge the nuclei of two light elements – such as hydrogen or helium – to form a heavier nucleus, such as of silicon, in the process releasing an enormous amount of heat. This energy endows all particles in the star with random motion, or pressure, which then fights against the pull of gravity and maintains the star in a state of equilibrium.

That is, the fusion energy pushes the star out while gravity pulls it in, and they hold the balance for billions of years. Such stars are said to be in the main sequence. (When scientists plotted various stars' colours against their brightness, they found that many of them occupied a prominent band in the middle of the graph, and named it 'main sequence'.)

Peeling a star

When a star no longer fuses material and allows gravity to gain the upper hand, it blows up in an explosion called a supernova if it's heavy enough. Scientists have extensively studied the light from many supernovae. The light contains signatures of the various elements it has passed through near the dying star's surface. Scientists have observed that some supernovae have shown no signs of hydrogen. Yet they also knew that hydrogen, the lightest of elements, makes up the outer layers of main-sequence stars.

The only explanation is that the outer layers of some stars are stripped away before the supernova explosion. How might this happen?

One particularly interesting mechanism happens if the star is part of a binary system – i.e. as one of two stars that are orbiting each other. (Most stars heavier than the Sun are in such binaries.) The gravitational attraction of one star can peel away the hydrogen layer off the other, leaving an exposed surface of helium. This would leave a small, hot helium star with strong surface gravity.

Most stars with more than eight solar masses are expected to be part of binary systems, so we should reasonably expect numerous binary-stripped helium stars in the universe. Yet so far, astronomers have found exactly one binary system in the mass range of eight to 25 solar masses (prior to stripping), and have been looking for the others.

The bright outliers

Dr. Drout & co. have now reported a population of these stars. The team's findings were published in the journal *Science*.

Many binary systems start out with two main sequence stars. One of them rips the hydrogen layer off the other, resulting in one helium star and one main sequence companion.

The team realised the companion would outshine the stripped star in the frequencies of light to which both human eyes as well as optical telescopes are sensitive.

Different frequencies roughly correspond to different colours of light. This is why the hotter an object is, the more energy it has, the higher the frequency of emitted light, and the bluer it glows. Helium stars are expected to be so hot that they emit more of their energy as ultraviolet radiation, which lies beyond the visible range.

So the research catalogued around half a million stars in two nearby galaxies – the Large and the Small Magellanic Clouds – using data from a telescope that could 'see' ultraviolet light.

> Many binary systems start out with two main sequence stars. One of them rips the hydrogen layer off the other, resulting in one helium star and one main sequence companion

Most of the stars the team found were main sequence stars, but there were some bright outliers. The team then studied the speeds of these stars. If a star were isolated, it would be seen moving either towards or away from the earth at a constant rate. But some of the outliers had different speeds over time - hinting at the presence of a companion that restricted their free movement.

Fill in the light's blanks

This way, the team finally had a shortlist of 25 stars for the final test: their optical spectra. A spectrum is a profile of the various energies (or frequencies) at which an object emits radiation. A star's spectrum is like a fingerprint of the elements in its outer layers. Depending on which elements are present, different frequencies of the light passing through them are absorbed by atoms, leaving the remainder to pass through space to the earth. Here, scientists can play 'fill in the blanks' with the light to estimate the composition of the star's outer layers.

When the researchers examined the spectra of the 25 stars, they found several with a strong presence of helium and an absence of hydrogen (Class 1). Some possessed hydrogen as well (Class 2 and Class 3). Based on this, the team made two conclusions: 1) Class 1 stars have no hydrogen and are rich in helium; 2) their companions are either low-mass not-as-bright main sequence stars or compact objects (neutron stars or blackholes) that don't emit ultraviolet light strongly.

All is well in astrophysics

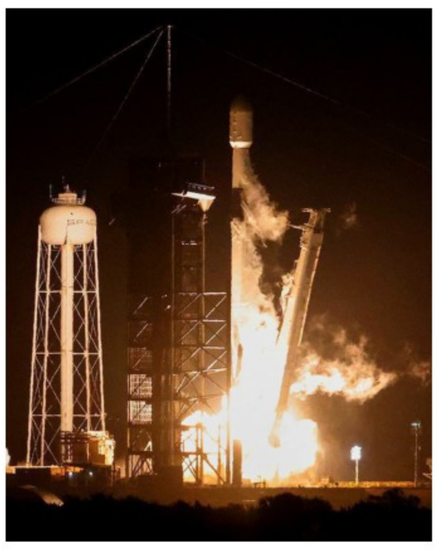
To further understand Class 1, the team answered the following question: given the strength of gravity and the temperature on the surface of a helium star, how would the spectrum appear to us?

They modelled different possible answers to this question using computers and found the surface temperature of Class 1 stars to be roughly 20-times that of the Sun and the surface gravity about 1,000-times that of the earth. So these were hot, strongly gravitating, helium-rich, and hydrogen-depleted stars that are also part of binary systems.

In this way, the team discovered the long-awaited intermediate-mass hydrogen-stripped helium stars in binaries after seven years. The work supports the predictions of existing astrophysical theories.

The group has also said these stars will end their lives as hydrogen-poor supernovae that leave behind ultra-dense balls called neutron stars. And these neutron stars may ultimately smash into each other in powerful kilonova explosions, releasing gravitational waves.

(The author is a fourth year PhD scholar in the Department of Physics at Ashoka University, Sonepat.)



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. REUTERS

How SpaceX became Indonesia's launcher of choice

Reuters

When a Chinese rocket malfunctioned shortly after launch in April 2020, destroying Indonesia's $220 million Nusantara-2 satellite, it was a blow to the archipelago's efforts to strengthen its communication networks. But it presented an opportunity for one man.

Elon Musk, the owner of SpaceX, seized on the failure to become Jakarta's company of choice for putting satellites into space. Thus he managed to prevail over the Chinese state-owned China Great Wall Industry Corp. (CGWIC) which is known to make offers that are difficult to refuse.

The Chinese contractor had courted Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy and a key space growth market, with cheap financing, promises of broad support for its space ambitions, and the geopolitical heft of Beijing.A senior government official and two industry officials in Jakarta familiar with the matter told *Reuters* the malfunction marked a turning point for Indonesia to move away from Chinese space contractors in favour of companies owned by Mr. Musk.

Nusantara-2 was the second satellite launch awarded by Indonesia to CGWIC, matching the two carried out by SpaceX at that time. Since its failure, SpaceX has launched two Indonesian satellites with a third in the works. China has handled none.

The SpaceX deals mark a rare instance of a Western company making inroads in Indonesia, whose telecommunications sector is dominated by Chinese firms

SpaceX edged out Beijing through a combination of launch reliability, cheaper reusable rockets, and a personal relationship Mr. Musk nurtured with Indonesian President Joko Widodo. Following a meeting between the two men in Texas in 2022, SpaceX also won regulatory approval for its Starlink satellite internet service.

The SpaceX deals mark a rare instance of a Western company making inroads in Indonesia, whose telecommunications sector is dominated by Chinese companies that offer low costs and easy financing. "SpaceX has never failed in launching our satellites," said Sri Sanggrama Aradea, head of the satellite infrastructure division at BAKTI, an Indonesian communications ministry agency.

The April 2020 incident makes it "hard" for Jakarta to turn to CGWIC again, he added. SpaceX, CGWIC and Pasifik Satelit Nusantara, a key shareholder in the Nusantara-2 project, didn't respond to questions.

The global satellite market was worth $281 billion in 2022, or 73% of all space business, according to U.S. consultancy BryceTech.

China launched a record 67 rockets last year, out of 223 globally, according to a report by Harvard professor and orbital tracker Jonathan McDowell. The vast majority were launched by CGWIC. That put China only behind the U.S., which had 109 launches, 90% of which were done by SpaceX.

Washington and Beijing are also competing over satellite-based communications networks.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Little things that punch above their weight

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

Isolate an atom of the carbon-12 isotope and make sure it is in its ground state (i.e. not excited) and not in motion. Measure its mass. This amount of mass is called the atomic mass constant. What other name does it go by?

QUESTION 2

An important way to classify subatomic particles is as fundamental versus composite particles. Fundamental particles are not made up of smaller particles whereas composite particles are. Name the heaviest known fundamental particle. It was discovered in 1995.

QUESTION 3

The mass-energy equivalence is often described by the formula $E = mc^2$ (where c is the speed of light). According to this equation, one _____ of energy is equivalent to 1.1×10^{-17} kg of mass. Fill in the blank with a unit of energy.

QUESTION 4

In 1966, some physicists proposed that right after the universe formed in the Big Bang, some small clumps of subatomic particles could have resulted in the formation of primordial _____ _____. The lightest these objects could have been is about 0.00000001 kg. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

The X is a hypothetical particle said to mediate the effects of the gravitational force. It's expected to be massless in many theories. But in some, X can have mass, and the properties of gravitational waves suggest this should be no more than 7.7×10^{-23} eV/c^2. Name X.

Answers to February 20 quiz:

1. Field of study Boltzmann is famous for developing – **Ans: Statistical mechanics**

2. Formula inscribed on Boltzmann's tombstone – **Ans: Entropy**

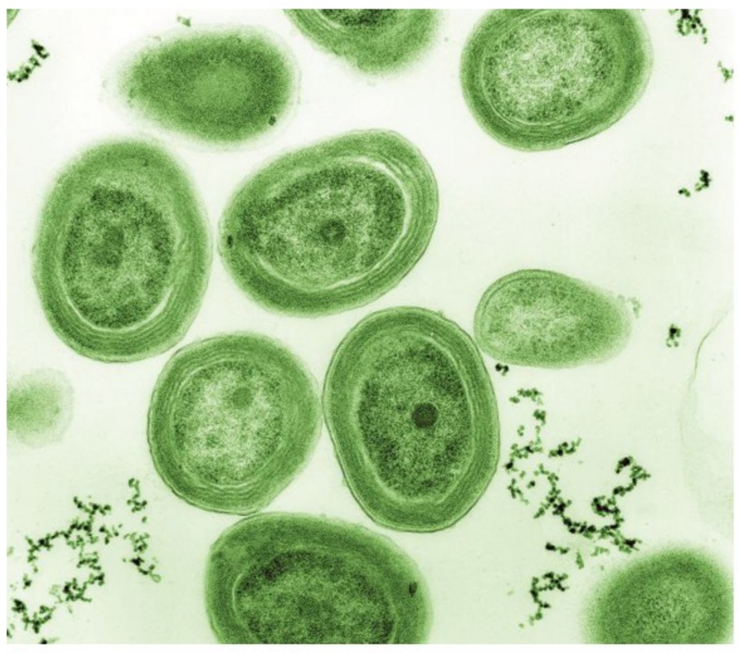
3. Woman whose appeal to audit mathematics lectures Boltzmann supported – **Ans: Henriette von Aigentler**

4. Physicist who named constant in entropy formula for Boltzmann – **Ans: Max Planck**

5. French physicist who worked out the value of the Boltzmann constant – **Ans: Jean Perrin**

Visual: **Ernst Mach**

First contact: P.N. Moorthy | Sayan Biswas | Arvind Kumar | K.N. Viswanathan | Shamim Mondal



Visual: There are many reasons to believe this organism is the smallest on the earth that makes its food by photosynthesis. It weighs about 0.0000000000000003 kg. Name it. LUKE THOMPSON, NIKKI WATSON

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

SIT records statement of IPS officer in bitcoin scam

Sandeep Patil is the first IPS officer to be questioned in the alleged scam

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probing the alleged bitcoin scam recorded the statement of IPS officer Sandeep Patil, IGP, Karnataka State Reserve Police, on Wednesday.

Mr. Patil is the first IPS officer to be questioned in the alleged scam. He was heading the Central Crime Branch (CCB), Bengaluru City Police, when the hacker Srikrishna Ramesh alias Sriki was arrested and the scam allegedly unfolded.

The SIT had earlier booked four police inspectors who were part of probe into multiple cases involving hacker Sriki.

The SIT had earlier booked four police inspectors who were part of investigations of multiple cases involving hacker Sriki and his associate Robin Kandelwala.

While the SIT arrested two persons, Prashanth Babu, PI, Technical Support Centre, and Santosh Kumar, CEO, GCID Technologies Pvt. Ltd., the team questioned other police officers. The officers who were questioned are Lakshmikanthaiah, Chandradhar, and Shridhar K. Pujari, all police inspectors then posted with the CCB.

The sources said that the SIT issued notice to Sandeep Patil to summon him for questioning in the case and his statement was recorded on Wednesday.

According to the remand application submitted by the SIT to the court, accessed by *The Hindu*, the SIT alleged that CCB inspectors took illegal custody of Sriki and Khandelwal in 2020 and later fabricated documents to show arrest on later dates.

On the other hand, the SIT also alleged the CCB inspectors. with the help of Prashanth Babu and Santosh helped some private persons receive the bitcoins.

MSIL liquor shops face challenges as 163 outlets encounter losses

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Of the 1,038 liquor shops run by the State-run Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL), 163 outlets in Karnataka are currently facing losses, as indicated by information from the Excise Department.

In a reply given by Excise Minister R.B. Timmapur in the Assembly, residents in different districts have expressed opposition to the operation of MSIL liquor shops in 20 places. The department has also received requests from the public and elected representatives to close down these 20 MSIL liquor shops.

Residents in different districts have expressed opposition to the operation of MSIL liquor shops in 20 places. FILE PHOTO

The majority of requests to close liquor shops have come from elected representatives in the State, followed by requests from villagers. An official from the department explained, "MLAs have urged the closure of these shops, possibly prompted by complaints they have received from the public."

'Relocate shops'

"In some instances, villagers and local residents have proposed relocating the shops to different areas or closing them down," officials added.

Mr. Timmapur in his reply stated that in Anekal, Bengaluru Urban district, the residents had urged for the closure of an MSIL liquor shop owing to traffic congestion it was causing in the area.

Meanwhile, MSIL recently announced its intention to undergo a substantial transformation by rejuvenating 200 outlets across the State. As part of this initiative, 20 outlets in Bengaluru have been specifically chosen for a facelift to enhance their competitiveness with private liquor outlets.

The MSIL outlet located on the west of Chord Road in Rajajinagar has already been revamped and transformed into a 'premium' outlet.

Seven school bus drivers found drunk

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a special drive conducted against school bus drivers in the city on Wednesday from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m., seven drivers were found drunk driving.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police checked 2,059 school buses, of which 331 drivers were booked for ferrying school children beyond the capacity of the vehicle, even as seven were found to be drunk.

Programme on role of AI, robotics in inclusive development held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A programme on "The role of artificial intelligence and robotics in inclusive development" showcasing cutting-edge research and applications was organised by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Technology, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Kengeri campus, in association with State Institute for Transformation Karnataka (SITK), State Policy and Planning Commission, held recently.

According to a release from Christ (Deemed to be University), experts demonstrated AI-driven innovations in healthcare, education and industry.

Robotics displays feature autonomous systems aiding disaster response and inclusive technology for accessibility. The Youth Sustainnovation Challenge 2024, where young minds harnessed the creativity and passion to tackle Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was part of the event.

Participants developed innovative solutions addressing environmental, social, and economic challenges, driving progress towards achieving SDGs, the release said.

Rajeev Gowda, vice-chairman, SITK and former MP, was the chief guest. Venkatraman Umakanth, senior vice-president and Head of HireMee, and Satyam Padidar, principal data scientist of Kiara Capital, were the keynote speakers.

Water adalat to be held today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BWSSB will hold water adalat on Thursday between 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m at: South East-3: Central Jail Road, Koodlu GLR premises.; South East 6: 9th Main, BTM Layout 2nd Stage; West 1-3: Dr. M.C. Modi Road, Rajajingar; North West 5: 1st Floor, 7th Main, MEI Layout, Hesarghatta Road; North 2-3: 1st Floor, Pinakini Bhavan, Doddaballapur Road, Major Unnikrishnan Road, Yelahanka. South 1-3: 21st Main Road, 11th Block, Anjanapura. South West 3: M.N.K. Park, Basavanagudi; South West-6: 4th Block, Banashankari 6th Stage, Pavanapura, Lingadheeranahalli; East 2-4: 1st B Cross, East NGEF Layout, Kasturinagar.

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NOTICE FOR EXISTING PENSIONERS RETIRED FROM CMPDIL

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INSTITUTE LEVEL SPOT COUNSELLING FOR ADMISSION IN POST-GRADUATE (MD/MS/MDS/M.Ch 6 yrs.) COURSES (JANUARY 2024 SESSION) AT AIIMS PATNA

Admission to the vacant Post-Graduate (MD/MS/MDS/M.Ch 6 yrs.) seats for the session January-2024 will be held on 26th February, 2024 from 10:00 AM onwards at E-classroom, Medical College Building, AIIMS Patna.

The seats will be filled on the basis of merit list issued by AIIMS New Delhi for PG (MD/MS/MDS/M.Ch 6 yrs.) courses examinations (INI-CET-PG Examination) held on 05th November, 2023.

The eligible candidates interested in the Institute level Spot Counselling must compulsorily register online for the same by 05:00 PM on 25.02.2024 (website for registration: **www.aiimspatna.edu.in).**

Registered candidates should report with required original documents (refer Spot Counselling Notice available at AIIMS Patna website) by 09:00 AM on 26.02.2024.

The schedule and seat position is tentative and any change will be under the discretion of the Executive Director, AIIMS Patna.

Tentative seat matrix is as under:

Sl.No.	Subject_Speciality	UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS
1	Anatomy	1	0	1	0	0
2	Biochemistry	1	1	0	0	0
3	FMT (Forensic Medicine & Toxicology)	1	1	0	0	0
4	Microbiology	0	1	0	0	0
5	Pharmacology	1	1	0	0	0
6	Physiology	1	1	0	0	1
7	Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery CTVS (MCH 6 Years)	1	0	0	0	0
	Total	**6**	**5**	**1**	**0**	**1**

For any query/information regarding Institute level Spot Counselling, contact, PG Admission Cell, O/o the Dean (Academics), Mobile No. 8544423532 & 0612-2451006, Email ID: **admission@aiimspatna.org**

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of people protesting at the Shambu Border

14,000 Farmers camped out at the Shambhu and Khanauri points on Punjab's border with Haryana, are demanding a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for their crops. PTI

State primary schools with just a single classroom in Gujarat

341 More than 1,400 posts of administrative officers in the Education Department were lying vacant as of December 2023, Education Minister Kuber Dindor informed as reply to a query raised by Congress MLA Kirit Patel. PTI

Number of trivial cases against tribals to be withdrawn in Odisha

48,018 Tribals constitute about 23% of the State's population. About 36,581 of the cases come under the excise department, 9,846 (home department), and 1,591 (forest and environment). PTI

Contribution of digital public infrastructure to GDP in 2022

0.9 in percentage. Digital public infrastructures like Aadhaar, UPI and FASTag generated a value of $31.8 billion in 2022. The contribution is projected to increase 2.9%-4.2% by 2030, according to industry body Nasscom's report. PTI

Funds needed by Afghanistan to recover from earthquake

402.9 in $ million. On October 7, last year, an earthquake in Afghanistan killed around 2,000 people. The UN said that the country needs urgent funds to support recovery. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On financial devolution among States

What is the role of the Finance Commission? What is the basis for allocation of tax revenue to various States? Has the percentage share of the divisible pool of taxes been reducing for southern States? What are the potential solutions?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan.R

The story so far:

Recently various Opposition-ruled States especially from south India have claimed that they have not been receiving their fair share as per the present scheme of financial devolution. They have raised issues about their less than proportionate share of receipt in tax revenue when compared to their contribution towards tax collection.

What is divisible pool of taxes?

Article 270 of the Constitution provides for the scheme of distribution of net tax proceeds collected by the Union government between the Centre and the States. The taxes that are shared between the Centre and the States include corporation tax, personal income tax, Central GST, the Centre's share of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) etc. This division is based on the recommendation of the Finance Commission (FC) that is constituted every five years as per the terms of Article 280. Apart from the share of taxes, States are also provided grants-in-aid as per the recommendation of the FC. The divisible pool, however, does not include cess and surcharge that are levied by the Centre.

How is the Finance Commission constituted?

The FC is constituted every five years and is a body that is exclusively constituted by the Union Government. It consists of a chairman and four other members who are appointed by the President. The Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951, has specified the qualifications for chairman and other members of the commission. The Union government has notified the constitution of the 16th Finance Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya for making its recommendations for the period of 2026-31.

What is the basis for allocation?

The share of States from the divisible pool (vertical devolution) stands at 41% as per the recommendation of the 15th FC. The distribution among the States (horizontal devolution) is based on various criteria. Table 1 lists the criteria for horizontal devolution among the States from the 11th to 15th FC.

The criteria as per the 15th FC can be briefly explained as follows. 'Income distance' is the distance of a State's income from the State with highest per capita income which is Haryana. States with lower per capita income would be given a higher share to maintain equity among States. 'Population' is the population as per the 2011 Census. Till the 14th FC, weightage was given for the population as per the 1971 Census but that has been discontinued in the 15th FC. 'Forest and ecology' consider the share of dense forest of each State in the aggregate dense forest of all the States. 'The demographic performance' criterion has been introduced to reward efforts made by States in controlling their population. States with a lower fertility ratio will be scored higher on this criterion. 'Tax effort' as a criterion has been used to reward States with higher tax collection efficiency.

What are the issues?

The Constitutional scheme has always favoured a strong centre in legislative, administrative and financial relations. However, federalism is a basic feature and it is important that States don't feel short-changed when it comes to distribution of resources. While there are always political differences between the Union government and Opposition-ruled States that exacerbate the problem, there are genuine issues that need to be considered.

Firstly, cess and surcharge collected by the Union government is estimated at around 23% of its gross tax receipts for 2024-25, which does not form part of the divisible pool and hence not shared with the States. To provide a perspective, the total tax revenue for the year 2022-23 (actual), 2023-24 (revised estimates) and 2024-25 (Budget estimates) of the Union government is ₹30.5, ₹34.4 and ₹38.8 lakh crore respectively. The State's share was/is ₹9.5, ₹11.0 and ₹12.2 lakh crore respectively, which constitutes around 32% of the total tax receipts of the Centre which is way less than the 41% recommended by the 15th FC. Cess like the GST compensation cess is for the repayment of loans taken to compensate States for the shortfall in tax collection due to GST implementation for the period 2017-22. Some of these amounts are also used for centrally sponsored schemes that benefit the States. However, the States have no control over these components.

Secondly, the amount each State gets back for every rupee they contribute to Central taxes shows steep variation. Chart 1 depicts the same for the year 2021-22. It can be seen that industrially developed States received much less than a rupee for every rupee they contributed as against States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. This is partly due to the fact that many corporations are headquartered in these State capitals where they would remit their direct taxes. However, this variation can also be attributed to the difference in GST collection among various States.

Third, the percentage share in the divisible pool of taxes has been reducing for southern States over the last six FCs as can be seen in Chart 2. This is attributable to the higher weightage being given for equity (income gap) and needs (population, area and forest) than efficiency (demographic performance and tax effort). Finally, grants-in-aid as per the recommendation of the FC varies among various States. As per the 15th FC, there are revenue deficit, sector-specific and State-specific grants given to various States as well as grants to local bodies that are given based on population and area of States.

What can be the way forward?

It must be noted that States generate around 40% of the revenue and bear around 60% of the expenditure. The FC and its recommendations are meant to assess this imbalance and propose a fair sharing mechanism. It is the responsibility of all States to contribute towards the more equitable development of our country. However, there are three important reforms that may be considered for maintaining the balance between equity and federalism while sharing revenue.

Firstly, the divisible pool can be enlarged by including some portion of cess and surcharge in it. The Centre should also gradually discontinue various cesses and surcharges it imposes by suitably rationalising the tax slabs. Secondly, the weightage for efficiency criteria in horizontal devolution should be increased. GST being a consumption-based destination tax that is equally divided between the Union and the State means that State GST accrual (inclusive of Integrated GST settlement on inter-state sales) should be the same as the Central GST accrual from a State. Hence, relative GST contribution from States can be included as a criterion by providing suitable weightage in future FCs. Finally, similar to the GST council, a more formal arrangement for the participation of States in the constitution and the working of the FC should be considered.

These are measures that need to be implemented by the Centre after discussion with all the States. It is also imperative that the States uphold principles of fiscal federalism by devolving adequate resources to local bodies for vibrant and accountable development.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. He currently trains civil-service aspirants at 'Officers IAS Academy'. Views expressed are personal.

How are revenues shared between the Centre and States?

The taxes that are shared between the Centre and the States includes corporation tax, personal income tax etc. This division is based on the recommendation of the Finance Commission that is constituted every five years. These tables and charts help us understand how equitably these taxes are shared

Table 1 : The criteria for horizontal devolution among States over the last five FCs

Criteria	11th FC 2000-05	12th FC 2005-10	13th FC 2010-15	14th FC 2015-20	15th FC 2021-26
Income Distance	62.5	50	47.5	50	45
Population (1971 Census)	10	25	25	17.5	-
Population (2011 Census)	-	-	-	10	15
Area	7.5	10	10	15	15
Forest cover	-	-	-	7.5	-
Forest and ecology	-	-	-	-	10
Infrastructure index	7.5	-	-	-	-
Fiscal discipline	7.5	7.5	17.5	-	-
Demographic performance	-	-	-	-	12.5
Tax effort	5	7.5	-	-	2.5
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Chart 1: The amount in ₹ each State got for every rupee they contributed to Central taxes in 2021-22*

Customs and union excise duties have not been considered in the calculation as State wise data is not maintained

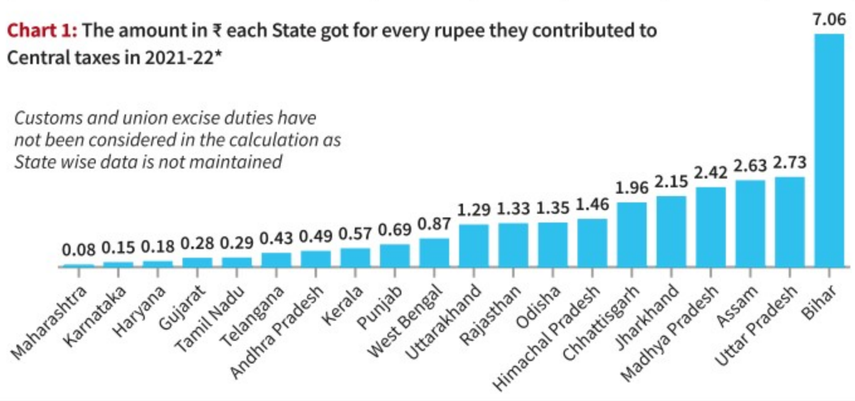
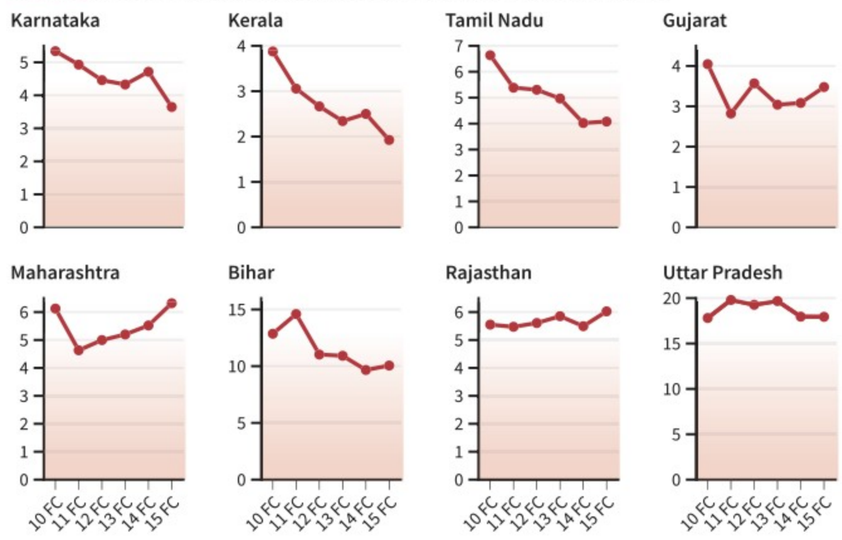


Chart 2: The share of States in the divisible pool of taxes over the last six FCs*



*Source: The Hindu Data Point dated March 16, 2023

THE GIST

- Various Opposition-ruled States especially from south India have claimed that they have not been receiving their fair share as per the present scheme of financial devolution.
- Article 270 of the Constitution provides for the scheme of distribution of net tax proceeds collected by the Union government between the Centre and the States.
- The Constitutional scheme has always favoured a strong centre in legislative, administrative and financial relations. However, federalism is a basic feature and it is important that States don't feel short-changed when it comes to distribution of resources.

Restrictions on traffic on Ballari Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The traffic police have asked commuters to avoid Ballari Road and Jayamahal Road on February 25, when the State government will hold a Constitution Awareness Campaign at Krishna Vihar Grounds, Palace Grounds.

Traffic to and from Kempegowda International Airport is expected to be affected too.

The police said that nearly one lakh people are expected to participate in the event and commuters have been asked to avoid Ballari Road from Hebbal Junction to Mekhri Circle, Jayamahal Road, Yeshwantpur to Mekhri Circle.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

25th Death Anniversary
REMEMBRANCE

Smt. Padma Venkataramiah
W/o **Late Justice E. S. Venkataramiah**
(Former Chief Justice of India)

Your humility, patience, righteousness and grace continue to inspire us.

Fondly Remembered by:

Justice B. V. Nagarathna, Sri. B. N. Gopala Krishna, Ms. Nayanatara B. G. and Ms. Prerana B. G.

DEATH

OBITUARY

Barbara Ann Thomas

Beloved mother, inspiring music teacher, friend to all

26 November 1932 – 20 February 2024

Funeral Service
St. Patrick's Church
on Friday, 23rd February 2024, 2:30 p.m.
and thereafter at Wilson Garden Crematorium

Mourned by family
Brian and Rebecca
Michael and Christine
Geoffrey and Glenis
Grandchildren – Neil, Nicholas and Nandan
Great grandchildren – Noah, Aurora, Charlotte, Finley and Samuel

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

Sri. R. Krishnamurthy, M.Sc(Ag.) aged 87 years
(Retd. Agrl. Chemist , TN Agri. Dept. and Freelancer, THE HINDU) left for his heavenly abode on 17.02.2024 at Coimbatore.

Dasasthu starts at 8 a.m. on 26.02.2024 at KAILASAM, Vedapatti Road, Perur, Coimbatore

Deeply Mourned by:
K. Sridhar & R. Srividya (Son & daughter-in-law)
N. Kumar & K. Janaki (Son in-law & daughter)
K. Srinivasan & N. Geetha (Son & daughter-in-law)
Grandchildren and host of relatives & friends.
Mobile: 9443064191

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TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	SE/Civil/Thermal Projects	04	1
2	CE/Electrical/NCTPP III	14	1

For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/1138/Tender/2024

Office of the Executive Engineer
Public Works Department,
Electricity Division, Bangalore

Tenders are invited through K.P.P.P. for the following works subject to KW–3 STD conditions on behalf of the Executive Engineer (Electricity), Public Works Department, Bangalore. The details of the works are as follows.

Sl. No.	WORK INDENTS/NAME OF WORK	Work Value (Rs.in Lakhs)
1.	Providing Annual Maintenance to Audio Video System with Software updating, Fire Hydrant & Fire Detection System, along with Skilled & Unskilled Manpower for Day to Day Routine Operations of (a) Fire Hydrant System, (b) Fire Detection System, (c) Audio–Video Systems, at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, Belagavi PWD/2023–24/EL/WORK INDENT8301	62.84

Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for those interested in participating in the above tenders. Date for Downloading Tender Documents at: 17–02–2024 to 02–03–2024 16:00 hrs and Date of Return of Filled Tender: 02–03–2024 up to 16:00 hrs is scheduled. Tender details are available on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. For further details the undersigned may contact the office during working hours.

Sd/– **Executive Engineer (Ele.)**
PWD Electrical Division,
KR Circle, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/AAA/3763/2023-2024

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. ಕೃಮಾಇ/ಕೃಉಮಾಸ(ರಾ)/ಸಾ.ನಿ/ಲೀ–ಕಂ–ಸೇ/1863 /2023–24,
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21–02–2024

ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಲೀಜ್–ಕಂ–ಸೇಲ್ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ / ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹೂಲಿಹಳ್ಳಿ–ಕೂನಬೇವು (ಮೆಗಾ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ) ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದ 'ಎ', 'ಬಿ', 'ಸಿ', 'ಡಿ' ಮತ್ತು 'ಇ' ಬ್ಲಾಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಳತೆಯ 300 ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಲೀಜ್ ಕಂ ಸೇಲ್ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಪೇಟೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು 3 ನೇ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿ, ದಿನಾಂಕ : 10–01–2024 ರ ಕೃಮಾಇ / ಕೃಉಮಾಸ / ರಾ / ಸಾ.ನಿ / ಲೀಕಂಸೇ / 1539 / 2023–24 ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಲೀಜ್ ಕಂ ಸೇಲ್ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಲು, III ನೇ ನಮೂನೆಯ ಖಾಲಿ ಫಾರಂಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ III ನೇ ನಮೂನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮಿತಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದ 14–02–2024 ನೇ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನವನ್ನು 23–02–2024 ದಿನಾಂಕದವರೆಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ನಿವೇಶನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ ಮೊತ್ತದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶದ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇರುವುದನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ, ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಲು, III ನೇ ನಮೂನೆಯ ಖಾಲಿ ಫಾರಂಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ III ನೇ ನಮೂನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮಿತಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದ 23–02–2024 ನೇ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನವನ್ನು **05–03–2024** ದಿನಾಂಕದವರೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಬಾರಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವರ್ತಕರುಗಳು ಸದರಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿ ನಿವೇಶನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಉಳಿದ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ., ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು
ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ., ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಾವೇರಿ/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/482/2023–24

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, RR Nagar Zone/South, Room No.101, Annex-3 Building, N. R. Square, Bangalore-02.

No: EE(QA/QC)/RRN/South/TEND/08/23-24 Date: 21.02.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)
Through GoK KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only

The Executive Engineer, RR Nagar Zone/South, BBMP, Quality Assurance/Quality Control division invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below works:

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1)	**Comprehensive Development of Roads Providing White Topping of Roads under 2023-24 GoK grants Package 06.** EMD : **Rs.2,12,000/-.**
2)	**Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains and Community properties in ward no-200 Yediyur (Old ward no-167) (New ward no-188 Yediur).** EMD: **Rs.6,375/-.**
3)	**Providing Additional Improvement works to BBMP Sushrutha Childrens Hospitals and Primary Health Center at Sakamma Garden in ward no- 200 Yediyur (Old ward no-167) (New ward no-188 Yediur).** EMD: **Rs.4,300/-.**

Date of Calender: 1. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal from **23-02-2024. 2.** Pre bid Meeting on **27-02-2024 at 4.00 p.m. 3.** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders **02-03-2024 up to 4.30 p.m. 4.** Date of opening of technical Bid: **04-03-2024 at 4.00 p.m.**

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, (QA/QC) Division, RR Nagar Zone/South, BBMP.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, RAYAGADA.
e-mail:- eephd.rgda.od@nic.in, eephdrgda@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO.**EEPHDRAYAGADA- 70/2023-24 DT.07.02.2024**

Sl No.	Name of the work	Bid identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding From	To
1.	Augmentation of Water Supply to Gunupur Town (Zone-3 and Zone-6)	EEPHDRAYAGADA-70/2023-24 Dtd.07.02.2024	664.56	Special Class and 'A' Class	10 (Ten Months)	22.02.2024 (11.00 Hr)	07.03.2024 (17.00 Hr)

Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer
P.H. Division, Rayagada.
Email: eephd.rgda.od@nic.in, eephdrgda@gmail.com

- Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in".
- All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA

C-3083 OIPR-13052/11/0036/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, RAYAGADA.
e-mail:- eephd.rgda.od@nic.in, eephdrgda@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO. **EEPHDRAYAGADA-68/2023-24 DT.07.02.2024**

Sl No.	Name of the work	Bid identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding From	To
1.	Augmentation of Water Supply to Gunupur Town (WTP & Raw water Rising Main including Operation and Maintenance for 5 years)	EEPHDRAYAGADA-68/2023-24 Dtd.07.02.2024	867.67	Special Class and 'A' Class	15 (Fifteen Months)	22.02.2024 (11.00 Hr)	07.03.2024 (17.00 Hr)

Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer
P.H. Division, Rayagada.
Email: eephd.rgda.od@nic.in, eephdrgda@gmail.com

- Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in".
- All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA

C-3081 OIPR-13052/11/0034/2324

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-2/4702/TND/2023-24/3273 **Date: 17.02.2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

Major Works :- 1) Improvements to Basarikatti Minor Irrigation Tank due to Heavy Rain in Hungund Taluk of Bagalkote District**(Call-2)**, Estimated Cost **Rs.500.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.7,50,000-00, Tender Period for the above work is Eleven(11) Months including monsoon.** Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/ portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **23.02.2024.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **01.03.2024.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office (Ph.No.08352-277188) or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **29.02.2024.** Other details can be seen in the tender documents. Pre-bid meeting will be held on **27.02.2024** for work costing above 1.00Crore in the office of the Executive Engineer, MI&GWDD Division, Vijaypur. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI & GWDD Division, Vijaypur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/483/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023–24

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PANCHAYAT RAJ
ENGINEERING PROJECT DIVISION KALABURAGI

No : EE/RDPRE/PD/KLB/KKRDB /TS/TND/2023-24/ 808 Date :/ 16/02 /2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work: 1)Construction of road from NH 150A to Mudbole in Shahapur taluk. (TSP)under KKRDB for the year 2023-24 Indent No. KRRDA/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT25 2) Construction of road from NH 150A to Mudbole in Shahapur taluk. (General) under KKRDB for the year 2023-24 Indent No. KRRDA/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT23 **2) Head of account:** KKRDB for the 2023-24, **3) Amount put to tender:** Indent No.25:RS- 1,10,29508.30, Indent No.23:RS- 1,00,15,539.72 **4) Class of Contractor:** Class-II & above **5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents:** 17-02-2024 to 26-02-2024 upto 4.00 pm **6) Tender Form Fee:** As per Eprocurement Norms **7) E.M.D. Fee:** Indent No.25 -Rs 2,00,000.00 Indent No- Rs.23 2,00,000.00 **8) Receipt of completed tender documents:** 17-02-2024 to 26-02-2024 upto 4.00 pm **9) Technical Bid Opening Date:** 27-02-2024 After 4.00 pm **10) Financial Bid opening Date:** 28-02-2024 After 11.00 am **11) For more details contact Office of the:** Executive Engineer, R.D. P.R.E. Project Division Rajapur Road Kalaburagi **12) Website Address:** www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering
Division Kalaburagi

DIP/YDG/356/KSMC&A/2023-24

Email ID: serw_sundargarh@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
Bid Identification No. Online-PMGSY/RWCCESNG-05 of 2023-24
Letter No. 452 // Date: 12.02.2024

1. Name of the work :- Repair and Maintenance of Rural roads under PMGSY roads
2. Total No. of Roads :- 14 No. individual Road
3. Estimated Cost of individual packages :- Rs.450.97 lakh
4 Period of completion :- 05 (Five) years
5. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Packages	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Date & Time of Technical Bid opening	Date & Time of Financial Bid opening
1	2	3	4	5		6
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	PMGSY / RWCCESNG-05 of 2023-24	14 No	20.02.2024 at 11:00 AM	08.03.2024 upto 5:00 PM	11.03.2024 at 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

- Further details can be seen from the website www.pmgsytenders.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer I/C, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.
O-2546: OIPR-25133/11/0078/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ
email Id :- cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 44 /23-24 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1.	Name of Work	A. Restoration and protection to right bank of river Budhabalanga near village Palusia, Rabaneswar, Kalyanpur , Alada, MakandA & Haldia.
		B. Raising and strengthening of Nilda TRE Saline Embankment.
		C. Raising and strengthening of Parikhi Saline saline embankment.
2.	Estimated Cost	A. Rs.1256.85 Lakh
		B. Rs.1110.85 Lakh
		C. Rs. 999.92 Lakh
3.	Bid Security / EMD	A. Rs.12,57,000/- ; B. Rs.11,11,000/- ; C. Rs.10,00,000/-
4.	Period of Completion	For S.I. No. A,B & C - 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months
5.	Class of Contractor	For S.I.No. A,B & C - "A" Class and "Special" Class.
6.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	26.02.2024 at 10.00 AM
7.	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	18.03.2024 up to 5.00 PM
8.	Date of Opening of bid	19.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
9.	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/O the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in".

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj
A-1564 : OIPR-32429/11/0007/2324

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idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Commerce and Transport Department

File No.HO/P&C/T&E-E-1924/01/2022 5485 Dt. 17.02.2024

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Bid Identification No.P&C/EST-E/202 /2023-24
(on behalf of Commerce & Transport Department, Govt. of Odisha)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Development, Operation and Maintenance of Green Field Sri Jagannath International Airport on PPP mode near Sipasarubali, Puri District, Odisha for Phase-I (4.6 million mppa capacity)
2. Value of the Work : 2203,00,00,000 (Rupees Two Thousand Two Hundred and Three Crore), inclusive of IDC, inflation and GST for Phase-I (4.6 million mppa capacity)
3. Period of completion : 1095 (One thousand and ninety five) days
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
   I. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt. 21.02.2024
   II. Pre-bid meeting (VC) at 11.30 AM on 15.03.2024
   III. End date : 17:00 Hours of dt. 20.04.2024.
   IV. Opening date : 17:30 Hours of dt.21.04.2024

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen **in e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website**.

Chief General Manager (P&C),
IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD : 4219 OIPR-14003/11/0410/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
P.H. DIVISION, BALANGIR.
Email. ID – eephbgr@yahoo.co.in, Ph. No – (06652 – 234647)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Invitation for Bid (IFB) Dtd.15.02.2024

Sl. No	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost(Rs.in Lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding	
1.	Renovation of intake and Construction of WTP with other allied structures in connection with the work "Augmentation of water supply system along with ancillary work for Binika town".	SE PH BGR 14/2023-24 Dt. 15.02.2024	576.84	'A' Class	18 Month	27.02.2024	12.03.2024
2.	Laying of clear water rising main in connection with the work "Augmentation of water supply system along with ancillary work for Binika town".	SE PH BGR 15/2023-24 Dt. 15.02.2024	361.15	'A' Class	05 Month	27.02.2024	12.03.2024
3.	Construction of ESRs in connection with the work "Augmentation of water supply system along with ancillary work for Binika town".	SE PH BGR 16/2023-24 Dt. 15.02.2024	462.79	'A' Class	11 Month	27.02.2024	12.03.2024

Name & Adress of Officer Inviting Bid: The Superintending Engineer
Office Of The Superintending Engineer
Public Health Division, Balangir
At-Tulasinagar, Po/Dist-Balangir
Pin-767001, Odisha,Phone:-06652-234647
E-mail:-eephbgr@yahoo.co.in

- Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal " https// www.tenderodisha.gov.in.
- All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updates.

Superintending Engineer
P.H. Division, Balangir
C-3084 OIPR-13005/11/0020/2324

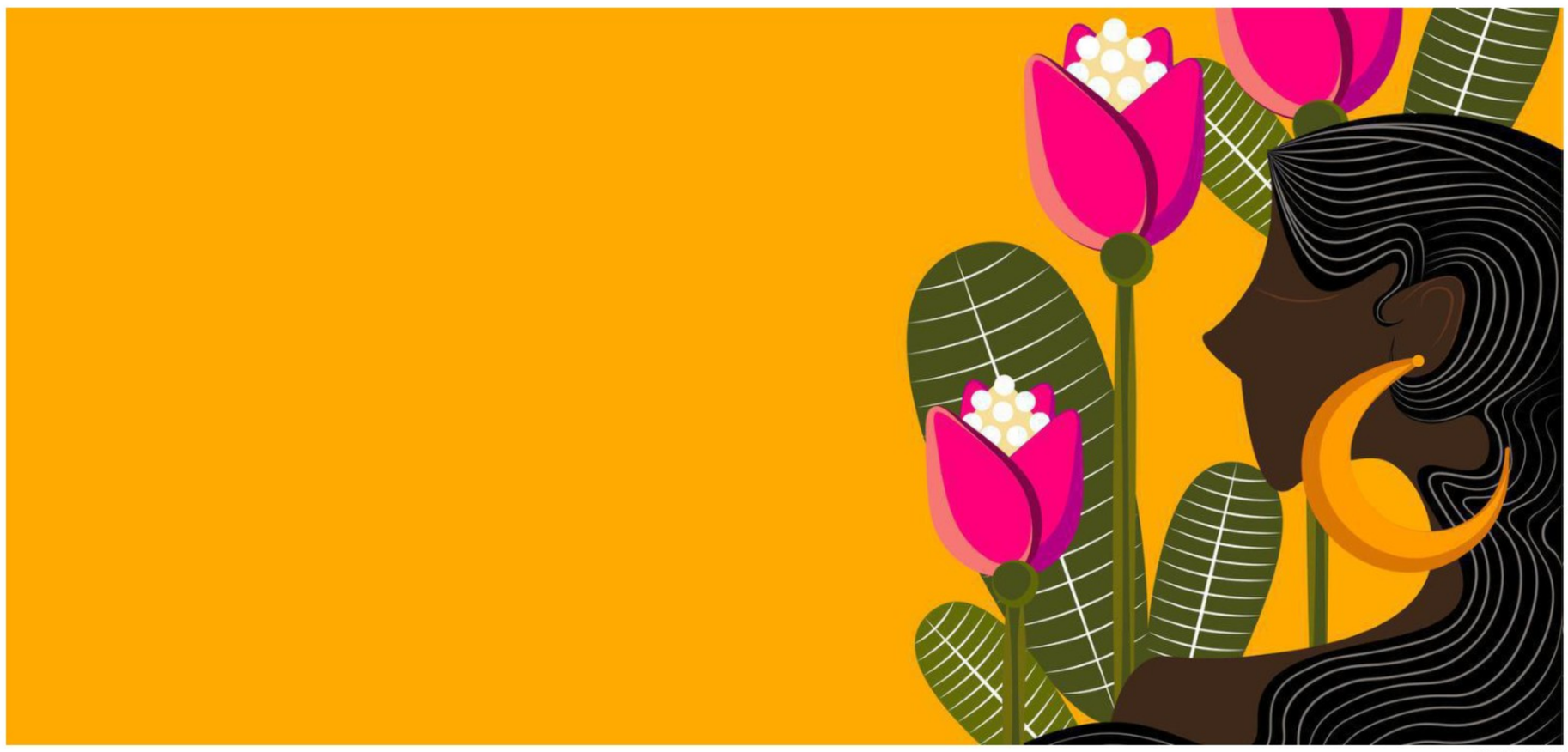
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ
email Id :- cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 43 /23-24 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1.	Name of Work	A. Construction of Haripur Distributary from RD 00 m to RD 7550 m with its all minors and sub-minors including all structures, CC lining and service road.
		B. Construction of Haripur Distributary from RD 7550 m to RD 12000 m with its all minors and sub-minors including all structures, CC lining and service road.
		C. Construction of Haripur Distributary from RD 12000 m to RD 14310 m and its all sub-minors including all structures, CC lining and service road.
		D. Construction of Raikama Minor from RD OOM to RD 1985M and its all sub-minors including all structures, C.C. Lining and service road.
		E. Construction of Raikama Minor from RD 1985M to RD3270M & its all Sub-Minors including all structures, CC lining and service road.
2.	Estimated Cost	A. Rs.9973.22 Lakh ; B. Rs.4099.73 Lakh ; C. Rs.4480.46 Lakh D. Rs.3606.06 Lakh ; E. Rs.1996.51 Lakh
3.	Bid Security / EMD	A. Rs.99,73,300/- ; B. Rs.40,99,800/- ; C. Rs.44,80,500/- D. Rs.36,06,100/- ; E. Rs.19,96,600/-
4.	Period of Completion	For S.I. No. A - 30 (Thirty) Calendar Months; For S.I.No. B,C,D & E. - 24 (Twenty Four) Calendar Months.
5.	Class of Contractor	For S.I. No. A - "Super" Class, For B,C&D. - "Special Class and "Super" Class. For SI.No. E - "A" Class and "Special" Class.
6.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	23.02.2024 at 10.00 AM
7.	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	16.03.2024 up to 5.00 PM
8.	Date & time For Pre-Bid Conference (For Sl.No. A,B,C&D)	07.03.2024 from 11.30 A.M. To 12:00 Noon in Office of the CE & BM, S&B Basin, Laxmiposi.
9.	Date of Opening of bid	18.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
10.	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/O the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in".

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj.
A-1554 : OIPR-32429/11/0003/2324

KEYWORD



GETTY IMAGES

How 'rememory' acts as a literary tool in confronting America's racial past

A narrative strategy that helps catalyse the stages of healing among people from the African- American community with a history of suffering and enslavement, as captured most poignantly in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*

Rebecca Rose Varghese

"Sethe gathered hair from the comb and leaning back tossed it into the fire. It exploded into stars and the smell infuriated them. 'Oh, my Jesus,' she said and stood up so suddenly the comb she had parked in Denver's hair fell to the floor. . .She had to do something with her hands because she was remembering something she had forgotten she knew"

The above excerpt from Toni Morrison's *Beloved* captures the essence of the concept of Rememory. It is a critical narrative strategy popularised by American novelist Toni Morrison in her book *Beloved*, published in 1987. Utilised within literary narratives, Rememory serves as a poignant medium for storytelling, delving into the harrowing past of African-American enslavement and the suffering upon which the country's foundations were laid. The significance of *Beloved* lies in its power to compel Americans to confront and bear witness to the racially haunted history that some might prefer to ignore or remain oblivious to.

While the protagonist's narration may present rememory as a form of memory, it's essential to recognise the clear distinction between the two concepts. Memory is the enduring recollection of the past that remains ingrained in one's consciousness. It represents moments that are consciously recalled at will. Her own wedding, the image of Amy Denver, the young white girl who saved her or her dead daughter's pink-flecked headstone are few memories that Sethe often recalls in the novel. In contrast, rememory entails the spontaneous recollection of memories that have remained repressed, often triggered by specific stimuli. In the mentioned passage, Sethe inadvertently recalls the smell of her mother's burning flesh when the hairs gathered in the comb are tossed into the fire. The "rememory," the reader realises, startles her.

As a tool for historical healing

To Morrison, rememory is a device that enables individuals to confront their pasts and recognise the tangible impact of memories on their present experiences. Yet, despite existing at an individual level, these memories also resonate in the world as fragments of a collective historical memory. Consequently, by extension, the individual recollection or "rememory" process can be replicated on a historical level.

Sethe says, "Some things go. Pass on. Some things just stay...Some things you forget. Other things you never do place. If a house burns down, it's gone, but the place-the picture of it - stays, and not just in my rememory, but out there in the world. What I remember is a picture floating around out there outside of my head. I mean, even if I don't think it, even if I die, the picture of what I did, or knew, or saw is still out there. Right in the place where it happened. Someday you be walking down the road and you hear something or see something going on... and you think it's you thinking it up... But no. It's when you bump into a re-memory that belongs to somebody else".

These words by Morrison encapsulate how an individual's memory of their past resides within the collective historical memory of the community. Consequently, there are parallels between an individual's healing from their traumatic past and the communal process of historical healing from shared traumatic experiences. Rememory, therefore, compels one to confront the past and facilitates the healing process.

Many literary scholars have analysed how the stages of healing are explored in the novel through Sethe's evolution. Her rememory is facilitated through two other characters, Paul.D and Beloved. Paul D was a former slave who worked alongside Sethe at a plantation, ironically named Sweet Home. His arrival invites Sethe to confront her own life on the plantation and, therefore, her own history with the institution of slavery. Toni Morrison thus situates Sethe and her actions within the dehumanising machinery of American slavery. The second occurrence of rememory is through the physical manifestation of Beloved, Sethe's child, that she brutally sacrificed, presumably to spare it from the brutalities of enslavement. The haunting presence of the dead child, now returned as Beloved, presents an opportunity for Sethe to confront her guilt. Thus, Toni Morrison prepares the second stage of the novel – Sethe's atonement. Atonement is only achieved when Sethe is consumed by her past, dwelling on traumatic experiences and self-imposing punishment for her sins, ultimately withdrawing from society. Eventually, with the support of her community, she learns to transcend her trauma and break free from the psychological confines she has erected. Rememory catalyses this healing process, compelling her to confront her suppressed past.

Thus, rememory serves as a literary device employed by Morrison to enable characters to revisit their past, in order to facilitate a deeper understanding of their present circumstances and experiences. Through rememory, characters can confront and reconcile with the traumas that continue to haunt them, ultimately allowing them to attain closure and find contentment.

Memories of the oppressed

While memories are a fundamental process of recollecting the past, their significance becomes particularly pronounced for those who share a history of trauma, oppression, and suffering.

In her book, *The Generation of Postmemory: Writing and Visual Culture after the Holocaust*, Marianne Hirsch examines the concept of rememory, while discussing her concept of postmemory. Rememory, according to Hirsch, involves the reliving and regression into personal trauma deeply rooted in individual pasts. However, it can serve as a representative of historical pain and can ultimately lead to moving past the pain. Postmemory, on the other hand, does not entail the same regressive reliving as rememory; instead, it focuses on experiencing intergenerationally transmitted trauma. Postmemory explores how communities mediate and cope with trauma passed down through generations, particularly from mothers to daughters, as outlined in the book. She discusses how it is more about an indirect form of coming into contact with the experience of generational trauma, such as that of the Holocaust, and how individuals engage with it through artistic or cultural representations. While rememory prompts society to confront its dark past through individual experiences, postmemory serves to bridge the gap between the past and present through a communal process of trauma mediation.

Reminders of the past

Memories within oppressed communities serve a multitude of societal roles: they serve as poignant reminders of past experiences, cautionary tales, and predictors of potential futures through the lens of collective memory. Therefore, engaging in exercises of recollection, confrontation, documentation, healing, and learning from the past within oppressed communities is profoundly significant. Within the African American context, "rememory" is a potent instrument to facilitate these processes. As the end of the book suggests, "This is not a story to pass on." However, Morrison's writings of the novel, inspired by an actual incident, underscore the significance of sharing such stories despite reluctance, highlighting why their relevance still persists.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

In 1948, between February 21 and February 25, Czechoslovakia became a communist state following a coup d'etat. Here is a quiz on communist states

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
A communist state is a form of government. In the 20th century, several communist states were established. Name the first one.

QUESTION 2
This revolutionary wave of liberal democracy movements resulted in the collapse of most Marxist–Leninist governments in the Eastern Bloc and other parts of the world. What is it commonly called? In which year did this happen?

QUESTION 3
Presently, there are five communist states in the world. Name them.

QUESTION 4
This term relates to a strategy whereby the most class-conscious and politically advanced sections of the proletariat or working class form organisations to advance the objectives of communism. What is it called?

QUESTION 5
This political reform movement within the Communist Party of the Soviet Union during the late 1980s was widely associated with Mikhail Gorbachev and often argued to be a significant cause of the dissolution of the Soviet Union. What is the movement called?

Visual question:
This picture shows a protest rally from 1989, related to Czechoslovakia, where a non-violent transition of power happened, ending communism. Name this movement.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. According to Stephen King, this language 'turns dirt into romance'. **Ans: French**
2. The second language to become a legally recognised classical language of India. **Ans: Sanskrit**
3. The language from which you get words like assassin, sugar, and zero. **Ans: Arabic**
4. These fictional group of people spoke 'Khuzdul'. **Ans: The dwarves in J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-Earth**
5. Alphabetically arranged from A to Z, the first and last in the six official languages of the UN. **Ans: Arabic and Spanish**
6. This letter appears in approximately 11% of all words in the English vocabulary. **Ans: E**
7. Nepali is an official language of this State. **Ans: Sikkim**
8. The meaning of 'loanword'. **Ans: A word in a language adopted from another language and used with little or no modification**
Visual: Name this linguist and the language he created. **Ans: L.L. Zamenhoff and Esperanto**
Early Birds: Rajmohan. V| Md Sarfaraj Nawab

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Ms. Anita Pritam wants to know the meaning of 'gen' and how to use it."

" 'Gen' is an informal word used in British English. It means 'correct and complete information'.

He gave me all the gen on her whereabouts.

I am genning up on the character of the person I am going to employ.

She married him only after she genned up on his family background.

'Genned-up' is used as an adjective to mean 'well-informed, knowledgeable'.

He is genned-up on world history.

'Gen' rhymes with 'pen'. The 'g' is pronounced like the 'g' in 'gentle'."

"Dr. K. S. Manjurath, Bapuji Dental College, Devangere, wants to know the origin of the word 'curfew'."

" 'Curfew' is from French 'couvre feu', cover fire. It was the custom in Europe during the middle ages to put out the fires at a given hour of night. It is believed that William the Conqueror introduced curfew in England in 1088. The idea was to prevent fires destroying a village or a town. To ensure this, the authorities concerned asked the people to put out their fires. The ringing of a bell at 8 p.m. was a signal for the people to put out their lights and fires and go to bed. From this, we get the modern meaning 'a rule that all people should be indoors by a stated time'. Curfew is imposed these days when the fire of hatred destroys people."

"Mr. M..V. Kameswara Rao, Palakonda, Srikakulam, wants to know the meaning of 'dead' in 'dead easy'."

" 'Dead' here means 'absolute'. 'Dead easy' means 'absolutely easy'. Other expressions are: 'dead stop', 'dead loss', 'dead centre', 'dead right', 'dead certain', 'dead drunk'. The word 'dead' has given birth to a number of expressions. A place that is dead is a place where there is no activity.

This village is pretty dead after eight in the night.

'In the dead of night' means 'in the quietest period of the night'.

This happened in the dead of night.

'To beat or flog a dead horse' is 'to keep mentioning something that no longer interests anyone else'.

I was bored when he kept on beating a dead horse.

A deadbeat is a lazy person or a person who does not want to conform to the norms of society. He was dead-beat means he was tired. Here 'dead-beat' is used as an adjective. When it is used as an adjective, there should be a hyphen between 'dead' and 'beat'. 'Dead men' means 'empty bottles'. It is slang. When the bottle is emptied of the 'spirit' in it, it is said to be dead. Hence 'dead men'. 'Down among the dead, let me lie' means 'let me get so drunk that I fall from the chair and lie with the empty bottles under the table'. This is the wish of a person who would like to forget the world through drinks."

"Ms. A. Hema, Triplicane, Madras, wants to know the difference between 'loathe' and 'loath'."

" 'Loathe' means 'detest, feel great hatred or disgust for'.

I loathe him.

'Loath' means unwilling, reluctant.

He is loath to go there.

Published in The Hindu on March 12, 1991.

Word of the day

Taradiddle:
a trivial lie; pretentious or silly talk or writing

Synonyms: tale, fib, humbug, baloney

Usage: *You misled me with this tarradiddle about her transfer.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/taradiddlepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈtæ.ɹə.dɪ.dəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Assembly adopts Bill that imposes blanket ban on hookah bars, sale of cigarettes to those aged below 21

It prescribes jail term of one to three years and penalty of up to ₹1 lakh on those violating norms

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Wednesday adopted a Bill to impose a blanket ban on hookah bars as well as sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products to those below 21 years of age.

Taking a serious view against hookah bars, it has prescribed a jail term of one to three years and penalty of up to ₹1 lakh who violate such norms related to ban on hookah bars.

The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was adopted by the Assembly comes close on the heels of the government's announcement that it will ban hookah bars in the interest of health of youth.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Bill, piloted by Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, has also banned the use of tobacco products in public places. Taking a tough stand with respect to preventing youth from being influenced by tobacco, it has banned sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products to those below the age of 21 years.

In addition to this, the Bill has also sought to prohibit the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products within a distance of 100 mtrs from educational institutions. It imposes a penalty of ₹ 1,000 on those violating the norms related to the sale of cigarette and tobacco products.

The Opposition members hailed the Minister for introducing such a bill and suggested that its provisions should be strictly enforced.

The State government had issued a notification on banning hookah bars in the first week of February and the bill gives this a legal backing.

BIS gram panchayat sensitisation programme held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Bengaluru branch office, recently held a GP sensitisation programme at Pandavapura taluk in Mandya district. It aimed at enlightening participants on Indian standards and quality ecosystem. It was chaired by Lokesh Murthy, executive officer of Pandavapura taluk, and attended by GP presidents, PDSOs, and secretaries.

Language symposium from tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru City University will hold a two-day international language symposium and fair on the theme art, culture, and environment from February 23.

Choodamani Nandagopal, art historian, UNESCO Fellow and retired Dean from Jain University, will be the chief guest. Consul-General of France Thierry Berthelot, Consul-General of Italy Alfonso Tagliaferri, Consul-General of Japan Nakane Tsutomu, and founder chairperson of BCU Centre for Global Languages Suman Venkatesh will participate in the symposium as guests of honour.

There will be lectures on various topics based on the theme of the international language fair on the inaugural day.

On February 24, cultural programmes and competitions for students will be held in the morning and valedictory programme and prize distribution will be held at 5 p.m.

The event will be held at Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Central College campus, Bengaluru City University, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2023-24/74
Dated: 12-02-2024.

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Shimoga Town: Construction of Type - II Quarters 7 units and allied works at Shimoga Town	Rs. 11,23,755/-

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 05-03-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/700/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Mysuru**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client **Mr. Deepak Lokanath Sindhe S/o. Dr. V.S. Lokanath Rao,** residing at No. 120, Brigade Road, Bengaluru - 560025, **has lost the duplicate of the Document** namely **Gift Deed dated 21.08.2008** registered as **document No. SHV-1-00734-2008-09** contained in **Book – I, C.D No.SHVD100,** in the **office of the Sub-Registrar Shivaji Nagar in respect of the property bearing old No. 37, New No.120, Brigade Road, Civil Station, Bengaluru 560025** and a **lost article report bearing No. 0941624/2024** has been placed before the Bengaluru City Police in that regard on 20.02.2024. If any person/s find/s the lost document he/she/ they is/are requested to hand over the documents to the undersigned.

V. Sanjay Krishna, Partner
TRIALBASE®
ADVOCATES
No.1/1, Ground Floor, West Wing, Unity Building Annexe, P. Kalinga Rao Road, (Mission Road), Bengaluru – 560 027. info@trialbase.in

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BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Executive Engineer - 6, Solid Waste Management, No. 408, 4th Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bangalore - 560002.

No:EE-6/SWM/QUOTATION/01/2023-24 **Date: 21-02-2024**

INVITATION OF QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

Civil Meat Production and Processing Centre, Tannery Road, under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, needs to repair the machinery of the ETP unit currently being renovated. In this regard, rates for the repair of the machinery need to be obtained from the appropriate suppliers. Quotations are invited from interested suppliers to provide rates separately for the following items.

Price Bid

Sl No.	Description
1	Air blower Services for aeration tank diffuser and for PVC pipeline provided at aeration tank. **Unit: Nos, Quantity: 2.**
2	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of the Filter feed Pump with necessary Services like Filter & Cartridge etc. **Unit: Nos, Quantity: 2.**
3	Cleaning and Dosing of the Chemical Tank with necessary fitting charges including Plumbing Work. **Unit: L/s, Quantity: 1.**
4	Dismantling, transportation, re-instal and commissioning of the Pipeline with the necessary modifications as per the site conditions. **Unit: L/s, Quantity: 1.**
5	Providing, Laying and Fixing of GI pipes conforming to IS 1239:1990 with latest amendments complete with GI fittings (excluding the cost of fittings) with cuts and threads wherever necessary, including testing for water tightness, with all lead and commissioning. (contractor will make his own arrangements for procuring water for testing) For: Heavy Duty GI pipe of 100mm dia etc. complete. **Unit: M, Quantity: 17.**
6	Providing and fixing GI union in existing GI pipe line, cutting and threading the pipe and making long screws including excavation, refilling the earth or cutting of wall and making good the same complete wherever required etc. complete for:20.88.6: 50 mm nominal bore. **Unit: Each, Quantity: 10.**
7	Labour charges, Fitting charges including Plumbing work, inlet & outlet, labours, skilled manpower with a technical supervisor for unloading the tank, and its installation with including Transportation. **Unit: L/s, Quantity: 1.**
8	Tractor with Trolley. **Unit: Hr, Quantity: 8.**

Interested Bidders may submit the filled in Quotation Forms in sealed envelopes to Executive Engineer-6, Solid Waste Management, No.408, 4th Floor, Annexe-3 Building, N.R Square before 26-02-2024 by 11.00 AM or it is suggested to submit their rates to this mail address: **ee6swm@gmail.com** For more details contact mobile number: 9379231908.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-6, Solid Waste Management, BBMP.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (QA/QC) Division, South Zone, Room No. 101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP, N R Square, Bengaluru-02

No: EE (QA/QC)/South/CORRIGENDUM/05/2023-24 Date: 21-02-2024

CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION

In the tender invited through Tender No. **EE(QA/QC)/South/TEND/05/2023-24 Dated: 20-02-2024** for the services of Project Consultants, the date of opening of technical bid is wrongly mentioned as 04-02-2024, therefore, **the date of Opening of Technical Bid should be read as date: 04-03-2024** instead of 04-02-2024.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (QA/QC) Division, South Zone, BBMP.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, Bengaluru - 560064.

No: BBMP/EE/YNK.D/E-PMT/16/2023-24 Date: 21-02-2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - SHORT TERM
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-01, KW-02, KW-03 & KW-04)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Construction of Additional Floor to Govt. Primary School at Ambedkar Nagara, Yelahanka New Town in Ward No.04 **(SC), Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 1.00**
2	Construction of Additional Floor to Govt. Primary School at Puttenahalli Colony in Ward No.02 **(Others), Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 98.00, EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 1.96**
3	Construction of Additional Class Rooms at Govt. Primary School at Ward No.01 **(Others), Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 1.00**
4	Resurfacing of Bad Reaches of Roads is Kempegowda in Ward No.01 **(Others), Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 250.00, EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.50**
5	Resurfacing of Bad Reaches of Roads is Chowdeshwari in Ward No.02 **(Others), Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 250.00, EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.50**
6	Resurfacing of Bad Reaches of Roads is Attur in Ward No.03 **(Others), Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 250.00, EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.50**
7	Resurfacing of Bad Reaches of Roads is Yelahanka New Town in Ward No.04 **(Others), Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 250.00, EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.50**
8	Construction of Toilet at Vinayaka Park in Ward No.04 **(Others), Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 0.80**
9	Improvements to Roads and Development of Footpath in Ward No.03 **(Others), Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 200.00, EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.00**
10	Improvements to Roads and Development of Footpath in Ward No.02 **(Others), Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 160.00, EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 1.60**
11	Improvements to Roads and Development of Footpath in Ward No.04 **(Others), Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender document can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **27-02-2024 at 16.00 Hrs. at the Office of the Executive Engineer (Yelahanka Division). 3)** Tenders must be Submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **on or before 16.00 Hours on 02-03-2024. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bids on **04-03-2024 after 16.00 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BBMP.

GOA HOUSING BOARD
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
New Market Complex,Porvorim Goa

Executive Engineer invites E-tender for:
TENDER NOTICE No.: TENDER NOTICE NO.GHB/EE/2054/2024
Date:21/02/2024
Construction of "Residential Cum Commercial Complex" at Ambaji - Fatorda, Salcete, Goa.
Estimated Cost (excluding GST): Rs. 48,34,96,239.528
Visit: https://eprocure.goa.gov.in

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), East Zone, 16th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bangalore - 560 001.

No.:BBMP/EE/ELE/East/TEND/07/2023-24 Date:21.02.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) **(Single Cover System)**

The Executive Engineer (Ele), East Zone invites tenders from eligible KCEI / KPWD registered contractors for the works detailed in the table below:

Providing Emergency works to Electrical cremetorium / Emergency Electrical repairs / maintenance & repairs of parks lighting system by providing damaged UG cable, fixtures, repairs to control panels in various constituencies of East Zone.

Sl. No.	Ward Nos. of the Work	Est. Cost of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
For Others Category			
1	108	4.23	10,600/-
2	166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115,76, 77, 78, 79. 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85	7.50	18,750/-
3	118	11.00	27,500/-
4	61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68	8.00	20,000/-
5	76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85	7.00	17,500/-
6	108, 109, 110, 111, 112,113, 114, 115	6.00	15,000/-
7	116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121	4.00	10,000/-
8	69, 70,71, 72, 73, 74, 75	3.00	7,500/-
9	80	10.00	25,000/-
10	167	11.00	27,500/-
11	166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172	4.50	11,250/-
12	116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121	5.00	12,500/-
13	61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68	5.00	12,500/-
14	69, 70,71, 72, 73, 74, 75	5.00	12,500/-
15	108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115	5.00	12,500/-
16	167	3.00	7,500/-
17	118	29.50	59,000/-
For SC Category			
18	108	18.85	23,600/-
19	167	20.50	25,000/-
20	76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85	5.00	6,250/-
21	118	6.00	7,250/
For ST Category			
22	116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121 69, 70,71, 72, 73, 74, 75 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68	7.50	9,500/-
23	166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172	6.00	7,500/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal: **23.02.2024 onwards. 2)** Last date for submission of Bid documents: **02.03.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs. 3)** Date of opening of Tenders: **04.03.2024 at 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-procurement helpdesk at : 080-25501216 / 25501227 or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele), East Zone.

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8 D - East European Dhamaka Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia & Hungary
8 D - Australian Dhamaka Melbourne, Canberra & Sydney
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Premium Experiences (Flight Inclusive) Starting @ ₹ 2 71 440.00
15 D - Sensational Europe France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy & Vatican
12 D - Australian Royale Melbourne, Cairns, Fraser Island, Brisbane & Sydney
8 D - Japan Extravaganza Tokyo, Hamamatsu, Hakone, Hiroshima, Kyoto & Osaka
Visa Free Holidays Starting @ ₹ 50 800.00
7 D - Bali (Flight inclusive)
7 D - Srilanka (Land Only)
8 D - Bhutan (Flight inclusive)
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8 D - Swiss French Dreams France and Switzerland
11 D - European Fusion Dreams France, Switzerland, Austria, Italy & Vatican
15 D - European Dreams UK, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy & Vatican
Kannada Special Departures Starting @ ₹ 2 53 500.00 (Flight inclusive)
8 D - Europe For All Switzerland, Germany, Belgium & France
11 D - Fusion Europe France, Switzerland, Austria & Italy
13 D - European Express with Disneyland France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy & Vatican
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INBRIEF

NRI policy for non-resident Kannadigas on the anvil

IT, Biotechnology and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday informed the Legislative Assembly that the government will come out with an NRI policy to build sustainable linkages between the State and non-resident Kannadigas living in various countries. Over a dozen NRIs from Karnataka watched the proceedings of the House from the visitors' gallery. Mr. Kharge said the government has already prepared a draft and a fine blueprint would be prepared soon. Noting the remittances from NRIs, he said the government would not only attract investments from NRIs but also offer them opportunities to serve the State. Ashok Rai (Congress) demanded a separate corporation for looking after the interest of NRIs.

State govt. admits to 'mistake' in notification on singing of State anthem in schools

Minister Tangadagi said the words 'private schools' had been left out; fresh notification mentions that 'naada geete' must be sung in all schools

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition embarrassed the ruling Congress in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, by pointing out that a government notification had left out "private schools" from mandatorily singing the State anthem (naada geete) written by Jnanpith awardee and poet laureate Kuvempu.

On February 1, 2024, the Department of Kannada and Culture had issued a notification amending the 2004 order declaring *Jaya Bharata Jananiya Tanujaate* as the State anthem. The amendment noted that the anthem must be sung in "all schools" and government departments, including State-owned undertakings. But on February 16, 2024, another amended notification was issued changing "all schools" to "government schools, aided schools and government departments and State-owned bodies."

Shivaraj Tangadagi

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok raised the issue on the "mistake" committed by the Kannada and Culture Department and said the government has left out unaided schools. "Don't you think all private schools also come under the jurisdiction of the government?" he asked.

BJP State president and member B.Y. Vijayendra demanded that Minister for Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi tender an apology. BJP's Araga Jnanendra and other members hit out at the government, saying that the ministers have lost control of the officials.

Mr. Tangadi as well as Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil admitted the mistake in the notification. Mr Tangadagi said a "printing error" had occurred. The notification dated February 1, 2024, included "all schools." In connection with an ongoing case in the High Court, the lawyer had questioned the meaning of "all schools." While specifying this, the words "private schools" had got left out, Mr. Tangadagi informed the House.

New notification

Mr. Tangadagi produced a fresh notification that specifically mentions that the State anthem must be sung in all schools – government, aided, unaided and private. Mr. Patil said action would be initiated against the officers responsible for the "mischief."

A couple of days ago, BJP members criticised the Congress government for allowing the Principal Secretary of the Social Welfare Department to take a decision to change a slogan attributed to Kuvempu and use it at the entrance of government-run residential schools. The BJP had termed it as an "insult" to Kuvempu.

Coop. Bill referred to House panel after BJP, JD(S) stall it

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ruling Congress suffered a setback on Wednesday as the combined Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) succeeded in blocking the passage of the Karnataka Souharda Cooperative (Amendment) Bill, 2024, that seeks to bring reforms in the cooperative sector by referring it to the House committee.

Amidst the appeal by the Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna for the passage of the Bill, it was referred to the House Committee after 30 members voted in favour while 21 opposed referring it to the committee. BJP member and former Minister A.H. Vishwanath did not support either. The Bill had been earlier passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Second Bill stalled

This is the second Bill that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners have succeeded in stalling in the council. In June, 2023, the Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) (Amendment) Bill that proposed to bring back previous provisions of penalty and jurisdiction had been blocked by referring it to the House Committee after being passed in the Legislative Assembly. Only last week, the House Committee placed its report before the House, clearing its reintroduction in the House. In the 75-member House, the BJP and JD(S) command majority with a combined strength of 42 members.

During the debate, the BJP members raised concerns about the nomination powers of the government in the cooperative sector that would take away the autonomy of the cooperatives, reservation to be provided in the cooperatives besides raising the issue of audit. BJP member Hanumanth Nirani urged the government to wait till the committee headed by legislator Laxman Savadi submitted it's report. Most BJP and JD(S) members felt that the Bill required careful consideration.

Minister's explanation

However, the Cooperation Minister said that many members are confused about the provisions of another Bill that is coming up. "The reservation that is at the lower rung of cooperatives is being extended to federal and apex organisations. Nomination to the cooperatives will not be from outside but from among the members or shareholders of the respective cooperatives. The election authority has become a white elephant so it is being removed. This is a propeople act and do not waste time by delaying it further," he added.

Meanwhile, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil also appealed to the Opposition to pave the way for the passage of the Bill that was in the interest of the cooperative sector. However, the Opposition did not relent.

BJP members walk out of Council over CM's tirade against Centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst noisy scenes, BJP members walked out in the Legislative Council, demanding answers from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah who continued his tirade against the Centre alleging skewed devolution of funds to Karnataka and also not releasing money meant for the State, including drought relief.

On Wednesday, while the House witnessed noisy scenes and repeated interruptions from the BJP members during the nearly two-and-a-half hours response by Mr. Siddaramaiah on the Governor's speech, the House plunged into chaos after the Chief Minister, citing frequent interruptions, abruptly stopped his speech. He also did not agree to respond to clarifications, even as the BJP members protested.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Congress members in the Legislative Council on Wednesday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Though Chairman Basavaraj Horatti had earlier told the BJP members, who were interrupting the Chief Minister, that they would be given an opportunity to raise questions later, the discussion was put to vote after the Chief Minister stopped midway, triggering a walkout by BJP members.

Earlier, when the Chief Minister trained his guns at the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the House witnessed repeated interruption by BJP members, who rose to their feet and disputed his claims on tax devolution and drought relief.

The BJP accused the Chief Minister of delivering an election speech filled with lies and factual errors. "In 44 years of my career in the Council, I have never seen such irresponsible behaviour," Chairman Basavaraj Horatti remarked at BJP members.

During his response, the Chief Minister asked the BJP leaders to lead a delegation to the Centre and secure the State its rightful share.

"Get us what the State deserves. We have met them, and it has not helped. Now, you (BJP leaders) lead the delegation to the Centre and secure our money. I will do a *nooru koti namaskara* (100 crore salutations) to you all on behalf of Kannadigas," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

He said while the Centre in the budget for 2023-24 announced ₹5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra project, no money has been received by the State. Besides, Karnataka needs to get ₹11,495 crore from the Centre as part of 15th Finance Commission recommendation. "Is it unfair to ask for our share?" he asked.

SI suspended over FIR against 40 advocates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday informed the Legislative Assembly it has taken a decision to suspend Sub-Inspector Tanveer Hussain of Ijoor station over an FIR filed against 40 advocates in Ramanagara district.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara said that strict action would also be taken against the person who was behind the alleged derogatory post against a Varanasi judge, who delivered the judgment in the Gyanavapi mosque case, while calling the accused "a habitual offender."

The police arrested Chand Pasha, an advocate, following a complaint against him for his allegedly derogatory post against a Varanasi judge, which led to a clash between the two groups of advocates in Ramanagara.

G. Parameshwara, Home Minister, speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The issued led to a verbal duel in the House on Tuesday with BJP members staging a protest demanding the suspension of the sub-inspector and strict action against Chand Pasha, who made the post.

Already, a probe has been ordered. Dy.SP Channapatna has initiated it. The suspension will also help the probe, the Minister said.

'Guarantees will push State into financial crisis'

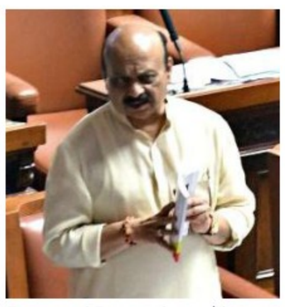
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State will be heading towards a "financial crisis" if the Congress government continues to implement its five guarantees without mobilisation of revenue for another 2-3 years and spends loans of ₹1.05 lakh crore for meeting the revenue expenditure in the year 2024-25, said former Chief Minister and BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai.

Speaking on the State Budget tabled in the Legislative Assembly last week by the government, Mr. Bommai said the government has not set aside funds for implementation of the 7th Pay Commission report, which needed another ₹20,000 per year. It has been utilising loans for meeting revenue expenditure and not capital expenditure.

The BJP was not against guarantees, but the government had not done any preparation for implementing five guarantees by mobilising financial resources, said Mr. Bommai. The State's growth would go back another 10 years with the non-execution of development works for the next 2-3 years, he said.

On the government's charge against the Centre in the devolution of taxes, cess and surcharges, Mr. Bommai said both State and Centre have been levying cess and surcharges and they were being used for infrastructure development such as metro rail. The Centre paid GST compensation of ₹1,6258 crore to the State during the last five years. While GST compensation discontinued after 2022, he said the Union government continued to levy cess and surcharges to fund infrastructure projects in states.



Basavaraj Bommai speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On the denial of ₹6,000 crore for the peripheral ring road by the Centre, he said the State government has not made any detailed project report to develop the road. Tenders have been called thrice in the past and no developer participated in it owing to enormous land acquisition cost and compensation, Mr. Bommai said.

The Centre not only shares taxes but also supports the State government by giving funds for implementing various schemes such as Jal Jeevan Mission, PM Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Amrut scheme, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, National Rural Health Mission, national highway, airports and port projects and many other Centrally-sponsored schemes. Moreover, no department had incurred expenditure over 60% of the allocated funds till mid-February 2024, he argued.

Bills to develop temple areas adopted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Assembly on Wednesday adopted Shree Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority Bill and two other similar Bills related to Huligemma Devi and Ghati Subramanya Kshetras for development.

It also adopted the Gadag-Betageri Business, Culture and Exhibition, Gold Ornaments and Toys Authority Bill and the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Tributes pour in for Nariman

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI/BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, and former CM Basavaraj Bommai expressed grief at the passing of Fali Sam Nariman, who had argued many of Karnataka's water dispute cases including Cauvery and Krishna.

Mr. Siddaramaiah condoled the passing of Mr. Nariman, describing him as "the country's foremost river water dispute expert", who represented Karnataka in the SC for decades.

Mr. Gowda described Nariman as "a friend of 50 years." He wrote on X, "He was not just my friend, he was a great friend of Karnataka and a proud son of India. His decades of service to Karnataka to safeguard its share of Cauvery water is unparalleled. We are indebted to him," he said.

A file photo of eminent jurist Fali Nariman with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Mr. Bommai, who earlier served as the Water Resources Minister, said successive governments continued the State's legal team led by Nariman. "Nariman guided us through contentious matters. Once the Supreme Court asked us to release 14 tmcft from Cauvery forthwith. He argued so well that the judgement changed." According to Mr. Bommai, Nariman was a simple man. "But whenever there was a mistake from the government, he used to take us to task."

Mohan Katarki, senior SC advocate who has argued Karnataka's cases in recent years, recalled his association with Nariman. "He defended Karnataka in series of inter-State water disputes before the Tribunals and SC from 1983 to 2019. Though a person from Bombay, he and Karnataka were seen in court as inseparable, Mr. Katarki said.

Plan to name canal after jurist

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government is planning to name a major irrigation canal after eminent jurist Fali S. Nariman, who passed away on Wednesday.

Speaking on the condolence motion moved by Speaker U.T. Khader in the Legislative Assembly, Law Minister K.H. Patil said Nariman's services to the State would be remembered by naming the major canal after him.

"Instead of naming a building after him, an important canal can be named after him. We will discuss this with the Water Resources Minister (D.K. Shivakumar)," Mr Patil said.

DEPARTMENT OF AYUSH
Government Unani Medical College And Hospital,
Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, Basveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079
gumcprincipal1975@gmail.com Telephone: 080-23116061

NO.GUMC&H/15/SUP/2023-24 DATE: 20.02.2024

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Principal, Government Unani Medical College and Hospital, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore, invites e-tenders in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement portal: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from experienced and interested and eligible bidders for supply of CLASSICAL UNANI Medicines with approximate tender value of Rs: 15.00 lakh (Rupees Fifteen lakh only) under Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 & 2000 Rules and continued rules.

CALENDER OF EVENTS: 1) Downloading of Tenders : 21.02.2024 from 4.00 pm onwards. 2) Submission of Tenders: 07.03.2024 up to 4.30 pm. 3) Opening of Online Tenders : 12.03.2024 At 11.30 Am at the Office of the Principal, Government Unani Medical College and Hospital, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore.

Any other Information may be obtained from this office during office hours on any working day.

Sd/-Tender Inviting Authority/Principal
Government Unani Medical College and Hospital,
Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560 079.

DIPR/CP/ 3772 /AKAR/2023-24

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560020.

No: BDA/EE(S)/S E 0002/2023-2024 Date: 19-02-2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, South Division, Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Bengaluru, on behalf of the Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the Work detailed below.

Name of the work: **Collection of Parking Fee for Vehicles Parked in the Vehicle Parking Area at Banashankari 2nd Stage, BDA Shopping Complex, Benglauru for the period 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 for One year (12 Months). Indent No.BDA/2023-24/S E 0001** EMD Amount (in Rs.): **Rs. 2,50,000/-.** Tender Processing Fee (in Rs.): **Refer e-Procurement Portal.** Contract Period: **One Year.**

Calendar of Events: 1) Downloading of Tender Documents Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids: **11-03-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. 3)** Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **13-03-2024 at 15.00 Hours.**

For more details please refer KPP Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact at Office of the Executive Engineer, BDA, T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumarapark West, Bengaluru, Helpdesk at 080-46010000 / 68948777.

Note: In case of delay in uploading the documents the revised / re-scheduled calendar of events will be issued via kpp portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
South Division, Bengaluru.

‘Indira Canteens must consider decentralised kitchens, and a more nutritious menu’

Amending the National Food Security Act to include State government-run canteens could save them from the apathy of changing governments, says Prof. Reetika Khera

INTERVIEW

Reetika Khera

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Indira Canteens, started in 2017 to supply food at subsidised prices, was one of the most popular schemes during Siddaramaiah’s first tenure as Karnataka Chief Minister. However, as the ruling parties changed in the following years, the canteens too fell into neglect. Reeling from severe fund shortage, the food quality at the canteens dropped. All the mobile canteens in Bengaluru shut shop due to lack of patronage. At a point, even the water supply was disconnected owing to nonpayment of bills.

With the Siddaramaiah government coming into power again in 2023, there was much anticipation around the revival of Indira Canteens. However, any major initiative is yet to be see in that direction.

Reetika Khera, economist and professor at IIT-Delhi, surveyed Indira Canteens in December as part of her research on government-run community kitchens including Indira Canteens, Amma Unavagams in Tamil Nadu and Indira Rasois (now renamed to Annapoorna Rasoi) in Rajasthan. In an email interview with *The Hindu*, she shared her observations on Indira Canteens and the importance of such initiatives.

Please tell us a little bit about your research on government-run community kitchens in India including Indira Canteens

The survey of Indira Canteens in Karnataka in December 2023 was part of a larger survey of similar schemes in Tamil Nadu (Amma’s Unavagams) and Rajasthan (Indira rasois, now renamed Annapoorna rasoi).

We wanted to document the functioning of canteens. In these three states, there are hundreds of canteens, unlike other states where there are only tens of such canteens (e.g., Dal-Bhaat kendras in Jharkhand, Annapoorna in Chhattisgarh and Aahar in Odisha) or none at all.

Our survey covered 174 canteens where we talked to workers and more than 700 guests. The survey teams often ate at the canteens as well.

What is the role of such community kitchens in poverty alleviation, food security and closing the gender gap?

Generally, the canteens/community kitchens are a response to market failures in ensuring food security. When there was widespread hardship due to high food inflation, one of the state responses was to make available heavily subsidized meals through canteens.

Canteens are almost always in urban areas (though Rajasthan had started expanding to rural areas as well). It is one of the few food security interventions focused on urban areas where vulnerability to food insecurity remains high (think of the lockdown during the pandemic), and workers (especially migrants) may have weaker social support networks to help tide over difficult times.

‘The demographic diversity of guests at canteens was the most heartening discovery of the survey,’ says Prof. Khera.

One of the hidden benefits of canteens is that they can provide relief to women who bear a disproportionate burden when it comes to feeding their families. This includes having to pack lunches for students and adult family members. The availability of food that is like home-cooked food allows people to switch from carrying food to eating at these canteens. In Tamil Nadu, these canteens are run exclusively by women, thereby creating employment opportunities for them.

Prof. Reetika Khera

Does your study document the different demographic groups using these canteens in Karnataka? If yes, please elaborate.

At each sample canteen in each survey state, we spoke to five guests. The near-absence of women was striking. Women comprised barely one-tenth of our sample, even though we were keenly looking out for female guests to interview.

Barring the near-absence of women, the demographic diversity of guests at canteens was the most heartening discovery of the survey. Canteens appear to have created all-inclusive democratic spaces.

We met a range of people at the canteens: destitute persons (homeless, living by the roadside), local and migrant construction workers, security guards, gig workers who are constantly on the move, accountants, traffic police, doctors, lab technicians, college students, retired pensioners, attendants accompanying patients who had travelled to the city for hospital treatment, even men and women with troubled personal lives.

People having their lunch at the Indira Canteen inside K.R. Market bus stand, in Dharmarayaswam. K. MURALI KUMAR

The reasons for patronizing the canteens, therefore, were very varied. Some were predictable: not having time, no cooking facilities, saving food expenses. Others were surprising: e.g., seeking company (especially among the elderly), taste pallet (one Assamese working professional said the food reminded him of the food he ate at home). The number of ways that canteens are helpful to a wide variety of people is striking.

What were some of the challenges you saw in these canteens and what would be your suggestions to improve?

The most important areas of improvement in Karnataka are related to providing a better menu for greater nutrition. It was baffling to see that though the state has recognized the importance of providing eggs to children in anganwadis and school meals, it has not done so in Indira Canteens. In fact, of the three survey states (Karnataka, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu), the menu was most disappointing in Karnataka.

This may have something to do with the centralized kitchen model adopted in Karnataka. We have seen this in the case of the mid-day meal (MDM) scheme in Karnataka, where one of the groups that had a contract to supply MDMs resisted the introduction of eggs in the menu. Centralized kitchens have other problems too - e.g. the food gets cold, even drinking water is supplied centrally in most canteens, scrutiny of hygiene is harder and so on. Karnataka is the only state in our survey to use centralized kitchens. In Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu food is cooked on site at almost all canteens.

Besides this, in all survey states, we felt that the canteens were underutilized, partly because of lack of visibility. Having clear signage outside the canteen, adding all locations to google maps, greater political ownership (e.g. through major politicians eating there once in a while) will help immensely in fuller utilization of the canteens. In Karnataka, respondents asked for parcel facility to be made available.

What are some of the plus features of Indira Canteens that could be replicated in other parts of the country?

Replicating a scheme like Indira canteens, on scale, is the most important lesson from Karnataka. Somewhat more tentatively, I feel the physical space created for Indira Canteens, with a template for the building, is worth considering elsewhere. They make it easier for people to recognize and spot them.

Were there any surprise elements during your fieldwork in Karnataka?

“Marshals”, dressed in army combat uniforms including boots, greeted us at all the Bangalore canteens (mercifully, not in the other sample cities) . They often tried to stop us from talking to the guests at the canteens and the workers. They were ostensibly employed to ensure that guests get the prescribed quantity of food, but we mostly saw them watching something on their mobile phones.

The marshals said they get ₹25,000 per month from BBMP (in addition to their army pension - a similar amount). That’s roughly ₹5 crores per year on marshals in Bangalore. Their salary is more than twice as much as that of other workers, who staff the billing desk, serve food, wash dishes, keep the premises clean - they earn ₹10,000 or less. The wastefulness was mindboggling.

Indira Canteens have been victim to changes in the political climate and ruling parties. What could be a solution to this problem?

It was very disheartening to observe that the canteens suffer when the governments change. Even in Tamil Nadu, the workers at Amma’s canteens were reluctant to speak freely about their demands - they feel vulnerable because the AIADMK is no longer in power.

Naming it after leaders has some advantages (e.g., in Tamil Nadu many workers and guests remembered Amma fondly while talking to us); perhaps they could be named after leaders who cannot be claimed by any one political party - Ambedkar, Periyar, Gandhi come to mind. Another option is to have a party-neutral name from the beginning. For instance, in Kerala a similar scheme is called “Janakeeya hotels”, Delhi’s (mostly defunct now) canteens are called “Janata Aahar”.

Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India launches Sustainability Garage

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India (MBRDI) has launched the ‘Sustainability Garage’, an initiative to promote innovation in sustainable mobility, in association with Prayoga Institute of Education Research.

The Sustainability Garage, MBRDI’s CSR initiative, is expected to serve as a hub for multidisciplinary research focusing on developing eco-friendly materials with diverse applications.

The initiative aims to foster collaboration between academia and industry, driving research and innovation in sustainable materials and technologies. Under the initiative, MBRDI has jointly developed specialised course material, and over 150 students from six universities in Karnataka - Jain University, RV Institution, JSS Science and Technology University, Vijaya College, Nrupatunga Institution, and St. Joseph’s University - will participate in curated workshops and can experiment with the research equipment.

Manu Saale, Managing Director and CEO of Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India said, “Researchers at MBRDI are deeply engaged in ensuring sustainability as a core priority - from analysing materials to design greener products or better battery chemistry to pivoting increasingly towards digital engineering processes that reduce emissions or waste.”

“In addition to partnerships with academia and research labs that help multiply our innovation quotient, it is important for the industry to create an ecosystem that nurtures innovation and embraces the principles of circularity and sustainability.”

Dr. H.S. Nagaraja, Chief Mentor of Prayoga Institute of Education Research, noted, “ The collaboration with MBRDI for this Sustainability Garage underlines our shared belief that a strong industry-academia-student relationship can significantly impact the pace of innovation in the coming years. Our nation’s abundant natural resources have the potential to be sustainable materials and the many talented young citizens of the country need to be nurtured.”

When students design their own school

According to SaiDevi Sanjeeviraja, LAN is a 10-month curriculum-integrated programme for government schools offering experiential nature-based learning for these children

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Thicket Tales, a Bengaluru-based organisation that believes in using the wonders of the natural world to bridge the learning gap, will present Nature’s Palette for Curriculum Delight, the final outcome of the first module of its flagship programme, Learn Around Nature (LAN).

The exhibition, which will be held at Ashoka Shishu Vihara, Shankarapura, on Saturday, showcases what the school’s students have learned over the past three months as part of this program.

According to SaiDevi Sanjeeviraja, Thicket Tales’ founder, LAN is a 10-month curriculum-integrated program for government schools offering experiential nature-based learning for these children. “If learning is difficult for children from low-income groups, they don’t enjoy it,” she believes. However, if one offers immersive experiences that children can relate to, “it has an exponential effect,” says SaiDevi.

Children participating in the LAN programme. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In keeping with this idea, LAN “integrates storytelling, arts, STEM activities, and interactive games to breathe life into 60% of the state syllabus’s science and social science concepts,” as the Thicket Tales website points out. Over the course of the year, students are taken through three modules, Geography, Biodiversity, and Human Connection, with each lasting around three months. While the first two months are spent visualising the curriculum, the last focuses on using this data to build something, says SaiDevi, adding that this upcoming exhibition is the result of their first Geography module. “The entire curriculum was hyper-localised,” she says, adding that concepts like sunlight, air, pollution, water and wind were explained within their city and school setting.

The final application part of this module, the Live Project, is essentially an attempt to redesign the school sustainably, applying all that they have learnt in the past two months. While the sixth-standard students came up with a pop-up book, the seventh and eighth-standard ones have developed a model of their school, considering what they think is best for it and what is practically feasible. “We want them to know that learning could be impactful and joyous. That it shouldn’t have to be difficult,” says SaiDevi, who firmly believes that children are no less than adults. “I am always fascinated by how, if you throw a problem at them, they come up with good solutions, which is on par with any adult,” she says.

Nature’s Palette for Curriculum Delight will be held at Ashoka Shishu Vihara, Shankarapura, on Saturday, February 24, between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. Admission is free for all.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 22, 1974

Opposition Boycotts Civic Panel Elections

Bengaluru, Feb 21: Elections to the vacant seats of the six standing committees of the Bangalore City Corporation were held today despite the boycott for the second time by the Opposition.

In the absence of the Opposition, the ruling Congress members unanimously elected opposition members to the various committees.

The Opposition had first boycotted the elections to the Committees on February 8 when only less than the number of members mentioned in the Corporation Act (which is seven for each Committee) had been elected.

Burglaries by Youth on the Increase

Bengaluru, Feb. 21: Burglaries committed by youth were on the increase, the Commissioner of Police, Mr. M.L. Chandrasekhar, told newsmen here today.

Reviewing the crime situation in the city, Mr. Chandrasekhar said a number of cases of house burgling had been registered and the offences were allegedly committed by persons just out of their teens. The thefts were committed in busy commercial centres.

The S.J. Park police took into custody Naseem Jhony (28), of Kumabarpet and recovered 183 foreign nylon sarees valued at Rs. 21, 950. A native of Mysore was arrested at Chickpet, and property worth about Rs. 2.500 concerned in eight cases of theft was recovered.

The many skies of Satyabrata Das

A Visual Vocabulary, by Bhubaneshwar-based artist Satyabrata Das, is on display in Bengaluru till February 25

Ruth Dhanaraj

It is true the sky is blue, but sometimes it can turn red, white, purple and yellow too. We have all marvelled at its spectacular shades at different times and then promptly forgotten about them. Those brilliant hues come to mind once more when we see Satyabrata Das' works.

His latest series, A Visual Vocabulary, presently on display in Bengaluru make you recall similar skies from whenever you were last under the open sky. "Urbanisation takes people away from life, but I want to bring that back, I want people to see Nature – its beauty, freshness, colours and moods, and that's why I focus mainly on landscapes," says Satyabrata.

Hailing from Bhubaneshwar, Satyabrata says growing up in the city of temples had a profound influence on him. "In my neighbourhood there are hundreds of amazing temples and heritage monuments. As a child, I grew up seeing how they looked during different times in the day, due to the light and weather," he says, adding, "I was also fascinated by the beautifully designed alpanas or rangolis my mother would draw for our home."

Though both Satyabrata and his family knew he could draw well, they did not realise how gifted he was, until he participated in and won a state-wide art competition. "I was only in class VI and till I won, I thought gold medals were only for academics, not for art. My parents, and especially my father, were extremely happy."

Heavenly hues Satyabrata Das and his paintings. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Satyabrata eventually went on to study at Kala Bhavana, the fine arts department of Visva-Bharati University, in Shantiniketan. "I loved that Nature was always in focus there, throughout our education, and I was blessed to have Somnath Hore, KG Subramanyan and Sanath Kar as my teachers. I also had the chance to be mentored by the legendary Ramkinkar Baij for a while."

After graduating from art school, Satyabrata returned to Odisha and joined a TV show that taught children how to create art. He was commissioned by Nalco (National Aluminum Company head quartered in Bhubaneshwar) in 1984 to provide the artwork for their first-ever calendar. Based on historical sites in the state, the calendar was a huge success.

"After this, I went on to pursue an MBA in California and while still a student, I was selected as a docent for the Festival of India hosted in Los Angeles that year. I met the most amazing people from India at that event – filmmakers, writers, artists and other craftsmen. That exposure benefitted me tremendously."

He says with that he began to paint in earnest, starting with replicating the works of famous masters, but eventually going back to Nature and landscapes. "I love travelling and I enjoy using my imagination and experiences to capture whatever I see – colonial buildings or village huts, the hand-pulled rickshaws of Calcutta or trams, beaches and boulevards."

Whatever the scenery, more often than not, one can sight the moon in Satyabrata's work. A romantic by his own admission, the artist is not hesitant to state how much he is inspired by that nocturnal orb.

And it is true. Of the 30-odd canvases that are a part of A Visual Vocabulary, one can see the moon peeking out in almost all of them. Created using acrylics and oil, Satyabrata feels his use of textures and linear lines, "make my landscapes interesting and varying moods are depicted in my use of colour."

He began working on this series in 2022, and many of the landscapes are inspired from Odisha, Assam and parts of the United States. "I made them for the simple joy of creating and sharing them with people," says the artist, who also enjoys teaching art to the children and elderly.

A Visual Vocabulary by Satyabrata Das will be on display at MKF Museum of Art till February 25.

Svadhyaya, in pursuit of excellence

Bengaluru-based Citsabha Collective will host a dance festival called *Svadhyaya*. "Svadhyaya, means self study in Sanskrit," says Kuchipudi dancer and founder of Citsabha Collective, Srividya Angara Sinha.

The festival will include a jugalbandhi featuring Srividya and Shubha Nagarana, an odissi dancer and the co-founder of Citsabha Collective.

This dance will be followed by a *jugalbandi* between Bharatanrityam-Kathak, featuring Rohini Prabhath and Medhavini Varakhedi and a solo Bharatanatyam recital by Shruti Gopal, the artistic director, Upadhye School of Dance.

"We also will be felicitating Sowmya and Sanak Athreya who have been working for over a decade in the field of therapy for special children through Carnatic music and their organisation called Svarakshema Foundation. They are deserving artistes and we wanted to thank them for what they have done in this field. They have worked with over 2000 neuro-divergent children with their Integrated Indian Music Therapy Program across centers of special education."

Double delight The festival will include a jugalbandhi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Svadhyaya , supported by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation), will be presented on February 25, 4pm at Seva Sadan, Malleswaram. The event is open to all.

Collision of tradition and modern

Praveen Sudevan

Ventures Theatre Group revisits *The Flame*, a Bengali adaptation of a Somerset Maugham story under Susanto Banerjee's direction. It is a play that tackles complex issues like tradition, change, and how we define ourselves.

Originally crafted by the English playwright Maugham and later adapted into Bengali by Tirthankar Chanda, *The Flame* has been translated back into English by Debleena Roy. This process has preserved the essence of Maugham's narrative and infused it with an Indian cultural context, offering audiences a layered experience. Since its first staging in 2016, the play has seen over 15 renditions.

"The adjustments I've made aim to sharpen the play's focus, removing redundancies and ensuring coherence without disrupting the narrative flow," Susanto explains, "These edits are subtle, primarily refining the dialogue and narrative structure. The core of the play, its flavour, and its impact have been preserved."

"The narrative that unfolds an evening conversation revealing complex relationships and a mystery, all set against an Indian backdrop, deeply engaged me," says Susanto, reflecting on his initial encounter with the Bengali adaptation. His connection to the play is rooted in its ability to offer "layered interpretations and new insights upon each revisit, akin to epics." This classic nature, coupled with a strikingly contemporary storyline, underscores the director's vision of making the play relevant to a modern audience.

Playing mind games A still from *The Flame*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Susanto's directorial approach was to refine the script with minor edits and additions that enhance clarity without altering the core narrative. "The essence and core layers of the story remain unchanged," he says, underscoring his commitment to maintaining the play's integrity.

"One approach to introducing new perspectives is by involving someone else in the production, someone who might see and present the story slightly differently," he explains. "This method was part of my process; I sought feedback from theatre critics, both familiar and unfamiliar with the play. I provided them with the script and my interpretation, soliciting their insights. This feedback led to several edits, ensuring that while the play's core remains consistent, about 10% to 15% has been adjusted based on these new inputs."

The creative team, including Raag Urs on lighting and Gerry Ambrose for music, complements Susanto's vision, creating an ambience that supports the play's emotional and philosophical journey.

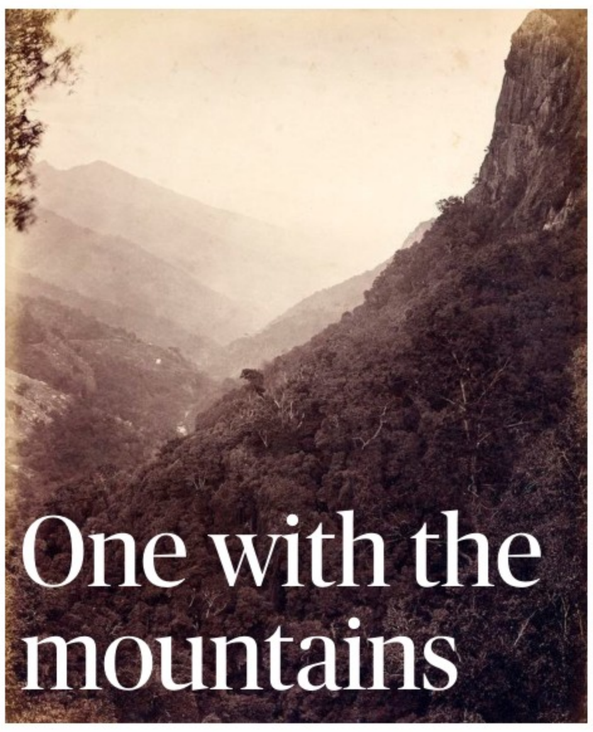
The Flame plays at Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield, Bengaluru on February 24. Showtimes are 3:30pm and 7:30pm. Tickets on bookmyshow.com.

Nidhi Adlakha

This weekend, two exhibitions will highlight the Nilgiris' history, and the ecology of the biosphere, shola grasslands, bees, and most importantly, the communities who have lived there through the centuries. The primary exhibition curated by Jenny Pinto, Remembering and Reimagining, was created to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of Ooty, which was observed last year.

Jenny says the exhibition, commissioned by the Ooty Literary Festival in 2023 and produced by TNMAI (the Nilgiris Mountain Arts Initiative), took five months to curate. It comprises an annotated collection of over 300 photographs of the Nilgiri mountains that reflect the region's ancient geological and ecological history, and the 'fascinating indigenous tribes who lived for hundreds of years in harmony with the mountains, until the colonists arrived in the early 19th century and transformed the landscape ecologically, architecturally and culturally'.

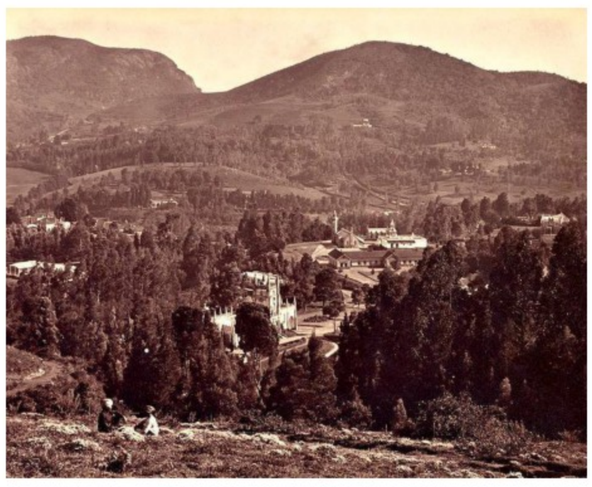
"When the Europeans were in the Nilgiris, they kept a good photographic record of the region. Many pictures are with archives in Europe and in university archives in the US, so I sourced them from these archives. I also sourced many images from Christopher Penn, the great grandson of Albert Penn (an English photographer who lived in the Nilgiris from 1865 to 1924)," says Jenny, adding that the more contemporary photographs were from people who have researched and written extensively on the Nilgiris.



The photographs captured by colonial era photographers, ethnographers, and contemporary chroniclers have been sourced from collections around the world as well as from family albums in the Nilgiris, and contributions by Dr. Tarun Chhabra, Vasanth Bosco, Ramya Reddy and Sharada Srinivasan. There is a special section on the photographs of Albert TW Penn, an English photographer who lived in the Nilgiris from 1865 to 1924, from the archives of his great grandson, Christopher Penn.

On February 23, visitors can look forward to a book discussion, of a volume titled *The Nilgiri Hills: A Kaleidoscope of People, Culture and Nature* by Paul Hockings that includes contributors to the exhibition.

The second exhibition titled Honey Bees of the Nilgiris, was curated by Tamil Nadu-based Keystone Foundation for the Indigenous Youth Forum (organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in Rome) in October 2023. Spotlighting the diversity of native honey bees, and beekeeping practices, it also highlights the Foundation's work on bees and *adivasis* in the region. Anita Varghese, ecologist at The Keystone Foundation, and exhibition curator, says, "World over, in the name of scientific beekeeping, the focus is on just one species, i.e. the Apis mellifera. It's at the cost of forgetting our native honey bees, and we realised it is not enough to just talk among ourselves, but to get this out to people. There are several indigenous honey bee species found all over India, and most of them are found in the Nilgiris, which is a unique phenomenon. As consumers, we need to know where the honey comes from, which forest, who are the people who collect it, and what is the traditional knowledge associated with that practice," she concludes.



Deep dive Into the history of the Nilgiris and India's native bees at this dual exhibition. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

From February 23 to February 26. 10 am to 8 pm at Bengaluru International Centre, Domlur.

CITYBEATS

Listen to a story

FEBRUARY 24
KoKo Hour, an interactive storytelling session inspired by KoKo Wooferjee – 'a globe-trotting dog from Bengaluru', known for her captivating tales and explorations. It is designed for children aged between five and 10 and will include enthralling stories that nurture creativity, resilience and critical thinking. *At Atta Galatta, 2.30pm. Ticklets on BookMyShow*

A book, launch and a talk

FEBRUARY 23
Appupen and Lauren Daudet's book, *Dream Machine* will be launched in Bengaluru. The book is about a founder of an AI start-up, who is on the verge of selling his technology to a large digital conglomerate when he begins to see and hear things that raise questions about the true motivations of his client.
At Blossom Book House, 6.30pm. It is open to all.

Bonding and building

FEBRUARY 24
Unboxing Bengaluru - Community Building in the City, will feature a panel discussion with Malini Goyal, Shruti Sah, Suhas Motwani, Saurabh Chauhan. The talk will be moderated by Subodh Sankar (co-founder, Atta Galatta). The focus will be on building strong communities and collaboration among residents.
At Atta Galatta, 7.30pm. Call 9632510126.

Appointments to environment body in limbo as Centre rejects names sent by Karnataka

The Centre has so far refused to accept certain names on many grounds, including that they do not meet the eligibility criteria

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

For nearly three months, the appointment of chairman/members of the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) has been hanging in the balance as reconstitution of the panels has not been completed. The Centre has so far refused to accept certain names recommended by the Karnataka government on many grounds, including that they do not meet eligibility criteria.

While on December 27, 2023, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change returned names of six persons who did not meet eligibility criteria, it said that seven others recommended met the criteria. On February 9, 2023, the Union Ministry again returned the nominations of six other persons, asking the government to verify qualifications, eligibility criteria, pending FIRs and adverse comments in service records among others against them. This was based on representations made to the Ministry against the nominated persons. Sources said that names have been repeated again despite being rejected by the Centre.

Members are to be identified from among experts in the disciplines of environment quality, environment impact assessment process, risk assessment, life science and so on. FILE PHOTO

As during BJP regime

Those in the know of developments in the government say that this is the repeat of what happened in 2021 when the BJP government recommended names to the panels that did not meet eligibility criteria.

The recommendation followed a communique by the Principal Secretary, Department of Forests and Environment in August, 2023, seeking applications to fill up the posts of the chairman and members of SEIAA and SEAC. The panels are important since prior environmental clearance is mandatory for activities listed in schedule of the EIA Notification of 2006 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The environmental clearance for category B projects needs to be approved at the State level by SEAC.

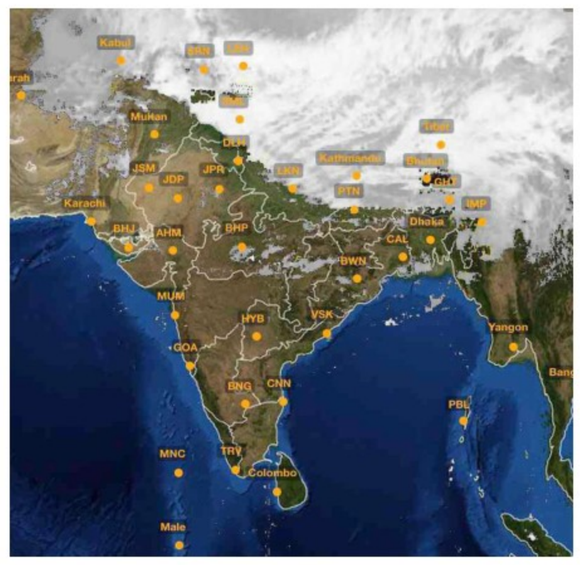
As per the notification, members are to be identified from among experts in the disciplines of environment quality, environment impact assessment process, risk assessment, life science and so on. Sources said that the Union government has sent back the list of recommended names for not meeting criteria.

Reasons for rejection

Among the reasons cited has been a pending Lokayukta enquiry on one chief engineer. In cases of three others, affiliation as full-time members of Congress has been cited, along with qualification and experience not meeting criteria. Three names have been returned due to their association with mining companies. In other cases, the nominations of doctors, those with MSW degree and B.E, who are not eligible, have not been accepted. Sources also said that names of those who had not met the condition on years of experience have also been returned.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Sikkim. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/gusty winds/hail-storm likely at isolated places over east Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim and Gangetic West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.4	22.0	Kozhikode	—	35.9	26.6
Ahmedabad	—	30.9	21.4	Kurnool	—	37.7	23.2
Aizawl	—	29.8	14.4	Lucknow	3	25.7	15.3
Allahabad	—	30.9	16.6	Madurai	—	35.2	23.6
Bengaluru	—	32.8	21.4	Mangaluru	—	33.2	23.6
Bhopal	—	30.9	15.6	Mumbai	—	30.0	20.8
Bhubaneswar	—	36.4	21.5	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	24.2	11.7	New Delhi	—	26.9	12.2
Chennai	—	32.5	24.4	Patna	1	29.0	18.6
Coimbatore	—	35.6	22.2	Port Blair	—	30.9	21.6
Dehradun	—	25.5	11.0	Puducherry	—	32.6	23.4
Gangtok	0.2	11.8	8.6	Pune	—	33.4	15.8
Goa	—	33.0	20.0	Raipur	—	34.4	20.7
Guwahati	—	24.4	15.2	Ranchi	—	29.0	15.6
Hubballi	—	36.0	16.0	Shillong	0.4	19.9	10.5
Hyderabad	—	35.5	20.2	Shimla	—	17.6	6.4
Imphal	0.7	26.2	13.1	Srinagar	34.6	—	-0.5
Jaipur	3	27.6	17.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.8	24.6
Kochi	6	31.6	26.2	Tiruchi	—	35.7	23.6
Kohima	1	17.4	9.0	Vijayawada	—	34.0	21.6
Kolkata	—	32.4	23.2	Visakhapatnam	—	31.4	23.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	49	.10	164	98	
Bengaluru	.10	.17	.25	119	146	
Chennai	4	.26	.62	143	139	
Delhi	.27	105	.59	274	257	
Hyderabad	.—	.31	.14	72	116	
Kolkata	7	.15	.31	77	102	
Lucknow	8	.42	.28	150	142	
Mumbai	.15	.96	100	42	72	
Pune	104	136	111	53	63	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.50	.33	90	125	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Araria, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 330 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

HC notice to Karnataka on plea seeking implementation of reservation for EWS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered issue of notice to the State government on a PIL petition seeking implementation of the 103rd amendment made to the Constitution of India, which provided reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS), other than SCs, STs and OBCs, in admission to courses in educational institutions and in appointment to government jobs.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice P.S. Dinesh Kumar and Justice T.G. Shivashankare Gowda passed the order on the petition filed by Girish Bharadwaj from Bengaluru.

The petitioner pointed out that the reservation for EWS came into effect in January 2019 and the apex court in November 2022 had upheld the constitutional validity of the 103rd Amendment.

It has been contended in the petition that delay of each day in implementation of the reservation for EWS would deprive the eligible students and the candidates from availing the benefits that have been guaranteed to them in the Constitution.

The amendments made to Article 15 and 16 gives reservation up to 10% of the total seats in each category in educational institutions, both private aided and unaided, except in minority educational institutions, and up to 10 of total posts in government in each category. However, the State government, despite passage of five years since the reservation came into force has failed to take effective steps to implement the reservation for EWS, the petitioner stated.

ISRO completes key test

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has accomplished a major milestone in the human rating of its CE20 cryogenic engine, that powers the cryogenic stage of the human-rated LVM3 launch vehicle for Gaganyaan missions, with completion of the final round of ground qualification tests.

ISRO posted on X: "Mission Gaganyaan: ISRO's CE20 cryogenic engine is now human-rated for Gaganyaan missions. Rigorous testing demonstrates the engine's mettle. The CE20 engine identified for the first uncrewed flight LVM3 G1 also went through acceptance tests."

Human-rating refers to rating a system that is capable of safely transporting humans.

The final test was carried out on February 13. It was the seventh in a series of vacuum ignition tests carried out at the High Altitude Test Facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, to simulate flight conditions.

BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK, BENGALURU - 83.
Phone: 080-29776466 / 29776467 E-mail: bannerghattazoo@gmail.com

No: A3/BBP/e-Tender/Feed/CR-3/2023-24 Date: 14-02-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru herein after referred as Tender Inviting Authority, has invited e-Tender for **Supply of Various Feeding Materials for the Captive Wild Animals Housed in Bannerghatta Biological Park** for one year from the date of agreement through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from the reputed Firms / Contractor.

Sl. No.	Particulars of Works	Approximate cost of the commodities put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD to be furnished (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Supply of live White Rat, Mice and White Rabbits etc.,	30.00	0.75
2	Supply of Local Goat Milk.	6.00	0.15
3	Supply of Milk, Egg, Fish etc.,	30.00	0.75
4	Supply of Miscellaneous Items to Zoo, Safari, Rescue Centre.	20.00	0.50

Detailed tender documents may be downloaded from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fees electronically in e-Procurement Portal **upto 4.00 PM on 05-03-2024.** Tender will be Opened on **07-03-2024 at 11.30 AM.**

Sd/-
Executive Director

DIPR/CP/3770/Adverto/2023-24

Department of Public Libraries
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CITY CENTRAL LIBRARY, WESTZONE, HAMPINAGAR, BANGALORE-560 104.
Tel:-080-23209691, Mail:- westzone_hampinagar@rediffmail.com

No: CCL/WZ/47/ACTS/34/NP& P/2023-24/896 Date: 20-02-2024.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement portal only)

Tender in two cover system are invited for the year 2023-24 from eligible firms/companies for supply of newspaper and periodicals to City Central Library, Westzone, Hampinagar, Bangalore and its various branches on rebate system. Interested experienced firms/companies should participate through e-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka. The Amount put to tender is **Rs.145.00 lakhs.** EMD amount for the Tender is **Rs.2,90,000/-.** Interested firms/companies can participate in the Tender through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website. Last date for submission of Tenders is **27-02-2024 within 5.30 P.M.** Technical bid will be opened on **29-02-2024 at 11.00 A.M.** The bidders may also contact undersigned for further details in this office on working hours.

Sd/- (PARVATHAMMA, C) Deputy Director,
City Central Library, Westzone,
Hampinagar, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO3781/23-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU

Ref :-PW:DIV:MAG:TND(36E):2023-24:AE-1: Dated : 21.02.2024

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICAT ION

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Divn. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under E-tendering in e -portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTTP Act Indent **No: 6912 & 6887 Under the Head Of Account :- 5054-03-337-0-17-154 SH Improvements.** (Estimate Amount Rs.495.00 Lakhs) **Last date for receipt of above tender: 28.02.2024 upto 16.00 Hours.**

Inviting Tender for KW-4 Any Change in dates of events and value of work put to tender and EMD amount etc only can been seen from e -portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer

DIPR / MNG / 1390 / MPL / 23-24

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.
Last date for submission of bid: **07.03.2024 upto 4.00 p.m.**

Sl. No.	Name of Work
1.	**Annual Maintenance of 4.00 MLD in Block-III in Sector-A, 3.00 MLD in Block-V in Sector-B and 2.00 MLD in Block-IX in Sector-C STP at Suryanagar Ph-II, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru 2023-24.** Tender Reference Number: KHB/2023-24/OW/work_indent 170 & IFT No. 176/2023-24 Date: 19.02.2024, **Amount put to tender : Rs.67,54,492/-.**

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: **Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru, Telephone No.080-22273511 / 080-22100077 web site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO3786/23-24

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
OFFICE OF THE, Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Divn., Athani – 591304, Tq: Athani. Dist: Belgaum (Karnataka).

No./KNNL/HBC/PB/TND/2023-24/ 3580 Date: 19.02.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through kpp-protal only)

Percentage tenders are invited as per KW-4 in Two cover system for below mentioned and System for from eligible tenderers, for the works detailed below by the undersigned.

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division Athani, invites percentage basis tender from interested, experienced and resourceful civil contractors from KPWD Class II Above Contractors who fulfill the pre-qualification criteria for the bellow mentioned work.

The two cover bid submission procedure as per Rule 28 of KTPP Act shall be followed The bidders are requested to submit their bids in two cover system including EMD in e-cash. The first cover (Technical Bid) should contain the documents as mentioned in Para 4, The second cover shall contain the financial bid. The cover-I (Technical bid) will be opened first. Thereafter cover-II (financial bid) of only those bidders who have fulfill the conditions contained in Para.4 will be opened.

The blank tender documents can be obtained through website www. kpp-protal.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender only.

The approximate estimated cost of work is Rs. 425.06 Lakhs
1:The contractor can request for e-tendering documents: From 21.02.2024 @ 10.30 AM to 29.02.2024. upto 4.00 PM, 2:Last date & time for tender queries:28.02.2024 upto 4.00 PM, 3:Pre bid meeting will be held in the office of the EE HBC Division Athani:27.02.2024 at 11.00 AM,4:Submission of completed e-tendering document:From 21.02.2024 @ 10.30 AM to 29.02.2024. upto 4.00 PM, 5:Opening of Technical Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani:02.03.2024 @ 11.00 AM, 6:Opening of Financial Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani: 05.03.2024 @ 11.00 AM (Or after Approval of Technical Bid), 7:Date for Producing original document @ EE KNNL HBC Division Athai:04.03.2024 @ 11.00 AM.

Any other information can be had from the undersigned during the office hours on telephone: 08289-251034 and H.P company helpline 080-22485867

Sd/-S.G.Srinath, Executive Engineer,
KNNL HBC Division, Athani

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1195/KSMCA/2023-24

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender notice No. SA-E24-2023-24-W1-W9

Divisional Railway Manager /Electrical / Salem Division, Salem - 5 for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc. can be viewed/downloaded from website portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

E-Tender Notice No., Date and Name of Work	Details
1)SA-E24-2023-24-W1 Dt. 17.02.2014 Implementation of Rooftop Solar PV System at various locations of Salem Division, Southern Railway with the objective of generating and supplying Energy to Railway Installations Through RESCO Mode.	Approx., costs. 5,51,82,836.79/- EMD Rs. 4,25,900.00/- Completion Period-6 Months Tender booklet cost- Rs 34,810.00/-
2)SA-E24-2023-24-W2 Dt. 17.02.2024 Salem Division Illumination of Railway stations at Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Karur, Podanur, Mettupalayam, Coonoor, Udhagamandalam Railway Stations and DRM office Building with tri-colour during the days of National Importance.	Approx. cost-Rs. 7,73,120.00/- EMD -Rs. 15,500.00/- Completion Period-6 Months.
3)SA-E24-2023-2024-W3 Dt. 17.02.2024 SA Division-Provision of Facade lighting for Coimbatore North (CBF) and Podanur (PTJ) station under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme Phase-I-Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost-Rs. 42,20,745.00/- EMD -Rs. 84,400.00/- Completion Period-6 Months
4)SA-E24-2023-24-W4 Dt. 17.02.2024 SA Division Provision of Facade lighting for Tiruppur (TUP) station under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme Phase-I-Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost-Rs. 47,39,970.00/- EMD Rs. 94,800.00/- Completion Period-6 Months
5)SA-E24-2023-24-W5 Dt 17.02.2024 SA Division-Provision of Facade lighting for Erode (ED) station under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme Phase-I-Electrical arrangements.	Approx cost Rs. 51,41,537.00/- EMD -Rs. 1,02,800.00/- Completion Period -6 Months
6)SA-E24-2023-24-W6 Dt 17.02.2024 SA Division-Provision of Facade lighting for Salem (SA) station under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme Phase-I-Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost-Rs. 41,41,140.00/- EMD Rs. 82,800.00/- Completion Period-6 Months.
7)SA-E24-2023-24-W7 Dt 17.02.2024 SA Division-Provision of Facade lighting for Karur (KRR) station under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme Phase-I-Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost- Rs. 26,98,912.00/- EMD -Rs. 54,000.00/- Completion Period-6 Months.
8)SA-E24-2023-24-W8 Dt. 17.02.2024 SA Division-Extension of Running room and Additional facilities at Coimbatore station-Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost-Rs. 3,51,887.00/- EMD -Rs. 7,000.00/- Completion Period-6 Months
9)SA-E24-2023-24-W9 Dt 17.02.2024 SA Division-Mettupalayam- POH Facilities of NMR coaches-Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost Rs. 11,34,797.00/- EMD -Rs. 22,700.00/- Completion Period-6 Months
For all the works Closing Time & Date 15.00hrs. on 20.03.2024	
For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date 15.30hrs. on 20.03.2024	
All Addendum / Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc., will be uploaded in the website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.	

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify/informed the general public thatmy client **SRI.ABILASH MURTHY,** aged about 39 years, S/o. Sri. K.P Murthy, residing at. No. 1972, CMR School Road, Kacharakanahalli, St. Thomas Town, Bangalore-560 084, intends to purchase the properties described in the schedule hereto from it's owners **(1) SRI. V. VISHWANATH,** aged about 48 years, S/o. Sri. R. Venkataswamy, **(2) SMT. B.C THRIVENI,** aged about 41 years, W/o. Sri. V. Vishwanath, **(3) KUM. RITU.V,** aged about 19 years, D/o. Sri. V. Vishwanath & **(4) KUM. NISHA.V** aged about 13 years, D/o. Sri. V. Vishwanath, (Since the Vendor No.4 is minor represented by her father Sri. V. Vishwanath as natural guardian), all are residing at No. 09, 2nd Cross, 7th Main, Near Reliance Fresh, A.G.S Layout, Harehalli, Bangalore-560 061. The owners represents that they are the absolute owners of the schedule properties and apart from them there is no other persons having any right, title, interest or claim over the schedule properties. If any persons having any objections or claims shall with documentary evidence lodge their objections/claims within 7 days from the date of this Notice with the undersigned failing which, my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE

1. All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties bearing SyNo. 11/2 (Old Sy No.11) measuring 06 Acres 10 Guntas out of 13Acres 16 Guntas including 36 Guntas Karab land, situated at Ganadalu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and Bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Property belongs to Sri. Chinnappa, **North by:** Property in Sy No. 11/1 of Ganadalu Village, **South by:** Remaining Property in Sy No. 11/2 of Ganadalu Village.
2. All that piece and parcel of the absolute owners of the absolute owners of the immovable properties bearing SyNo.74 (old Sy No. 8) measuring 37 guntas out of 03 acres 09 Guntas including 02 Guntas Karab land, situated at Kanakenahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and Bounded on the: **East by:** Property in Sy No. 7 of Kanakenahalli Village, **West by:** Remaining Property in Sy No. 74 of Kanakenahalli Village, **North by:** Property in Sy No. 11/2 of Ganadalu Village, **South by:** Road.

SUBBI REDDY, Advocate
No.34, 2nd Floor, 'Ganesha Krupa',
1St Main, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560 009.
Mob: 94488 83819.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify/informed the general public thatmy client **SRI.PRADEEP.M,** aged about 44 years, S/o. Sri. K.P Murthy, residing at. No. 1972, CMR School Road, Kacharakanahalli, St. Thomas Town, Bangalore-560 084,intends to purchase the properties described in the schedule hereto from it's owners **(1)SRI. V. VISHWANATH,** aged about 48 years, S/o. Sri. R. Venkataswamy, **(2) SMT. B.C THRIVENI,** aged about 41 years, W/o. Sri. V. Vishwanath, **(3) KUM. RITU.V,** aged about 19 years, D/o. Sri. V. Vishwanath & **(4) KUM. NISHA.V** aged about 13 years, D/o. Sri. V. Vishwanath, (Since the Vendor No.4 is minor represented by her father Sri. V. Vishwanath as natural guardian), all are residing at No. 09, 2nd Cross, 7th Main, Near Reliance Fresh, A.G.S Layout, Harehalli, Bangalore-560 061. The owners represents that they are the absolute owners of the schedule properties and apart from them there is no other persons having any right, title, interest or claim over the schedule properties. If any persons having any objections or claims shall with documentary evidence lodge their objections/claims within 7 days from the date of this Notice with the undersigned failing which, my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE

1. All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties bearing SyNo. 11/2 (Old Sy No.11) measuring 06 Acres 10 Guntas out of 13Acres 16 Guntas including 36 Guntas Karab land, situated at Ganadalu Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and Bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Property belongs to Sri. Chinnappa, **North by:** Remaining Property in Sy No. 11/2 of Ganadalu Village, **South by:** Property in Sy No. 74 and 75 of Kanakenahalli Village.
2. All that piece and parcel of the absolute owners of the absolute owners of the immovable properties bearing SyNo.74 (old Sy No. 8) measuring 37 guntas out of 03 acres 09 Guntas including 02 Guntas Karab land, situated at Kanakenahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and Bounded on the: **East by:** Property in Sy No. 7 of Kanakenahalli Village, **West by:** Remaining Property in Sy No. 74 of Kanakenahalli Village, **North by:** Property in Sy No. 11/2 of Ganadalu Village, **South by:** Road.

SUBBI REDDY, Advocate
No.34, 2nd Floor, 'Ganesha Krupa',
1St Main, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560 009.
Mob: 94488 83819.

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO BHAWAN, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, JHARKHAND
Ph. No.: +91-651-2225878, Mob. No.: +91 9471006062
e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com, CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752,

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
JHARKHAND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
REQUEST FOR BID NO.: IN-JUIDCO LTD.-378647-CW-RFB
NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT
(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/Lohardaga WSS/JMDP/2024/593
Date: 21 .02.2024

Name of Work	:	Design, Build and 5 Year Operation Service of Water Supply System for Lohardaga Nagar Parishad Jharkhand
Mode of Bid Submission	:	Online e-tendering (https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
Estimated value of Contract (CAPEX + OPEX excluding electricity charges)	:	Rs 130,78,04,494/- (Rs One Hundred Thirty Crore Seventy Eight Lakh Four Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Four Two Only)
Tender Fees	:	Rs 25,000/- (Non- Refundanle) (Rs Twenty Five Thousand Only)
Bid Security	:	Rs 1,30,78,044/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Forty Four only)
Start of sale of Bid Document	:	23/02/2024 from 10:00 Hrs
Time and date of pre-bid meeting	:	01/03/2024 at 15:00 hrs
Last date and time for receipt of online bids	:	23/03/2024 till 17:00 hrs
Time and Date of opening of bids –Technical Part	:	23/03/2024 till 17:30 hrs
Address of the Employer	:	JUIDCO Ltd, JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand 834 001
Officer Inviting Bids	:	Project Director (Technical) Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834 001 Tel: 0651- 2243203/ 2225878 e-mail: juidcolimited@gmail.com, Website: www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Note: Only e-tenders will be accepted.
Further details are available on the Jharkhand Government e-procurement website *http//: jharkhandtenders.gov.in*

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

PR 319899 Urban Development and Housing(23-24)#D

Flagrant fraud

Stratagem to defeat Opposition alliance backfired on BJP in Chandigarh

It was an indirect election in which a mere 35 councillors could vote. Yet, the election of Chandigarh's Mayor has emerged as a microcosm of the sort of serious electoral malpractice that can undermine democracy. The Supreme Court of India, while declaring the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate Kuldeep Kumar as the duly elected Mayor, has exposed a malaise that is not often recognised in the great Indian election scene: the role of officials in helping parties steal elections through fraudulent means during counting. The act of the Returning Officer, Anil Masih, in marking or defacing ballot papers, was not only captured on camera but was also proven to be a ruse to declare invalid votes that were validly cast in Mr. Kumar's favour. Mr. Masih, a man with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) affiliation, appears to have committed the illegality to help Manoj Sonkar, the BJP candidate, win the mayoral election, but it ultimately backfired on him, as the apex court has initiated the process to prosecute him for giving false information to the Court. Ever since he controversially declared Mr. Sonkar elected after ruling eight votes invalid, Mr. Masih had sought to brazen it out by claiming that the votes were invalid as they were defaced. His claim was shown to be false, as the Court found nothing on the ballots indicating defacement.

When Mr. Sonkar resigned from his post on the eve of the hearing, the Court was alive to the possibility that the BJP was looking for a reason to have a fresh election, as by that time, it had won over three AAP councillors to its side, a development that may impede the new Mayor's functioning. The Court warned against the democratic process being set at naught by "subterfuge". It was, therefore, logical that it did not order a fresh election, but decided to go ahead with the original votes, taking into account the valid votes illegally declared invalid. There is little doubt that the development is a setback to the BJP, which seems to have resorted to the fraud with the aim of subverting the cooperation between the Congress and the AAP, which are part of the Opposition INDIA bloc and had forged an alliance for the municipal election. BJP president J.P. Nadda had sought to use the election result to underscore the failure of both arithmetic and chemistry in the Opposition alliance, but will now have to deal with the party's loss of face. It was indeed a fit case for the Court to invoke its extraordinary powers to decide on fact who actually won the election. The prosecution of Mr. Masih should also establish at whose behest he had resorted to such flagrant fraud.

Ending discrimination

Workplaces must ensure fair treatment of women employees

The Supreme Court of India has come out heavily against another archaic idea with patriarchal overtones by observing that rules which penalise women employees for getting married are unconstitutional. "Terminating employment because the woman has got married is a coarse case of gender discrimination and inequality. Acceptance of such [a] patriarchal rule undermines human dignity, right to non-discrimination and fair treatment." The observations were part of an order which upheld the rights of Selina John, a former lieutenant and Permanent Commissioner Officer in the Military Nursing Service, who was discharged from service in 1988 for getting married. A Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna directed the Union Government to pay Ms. John ₹60 lakh in compensation within eight weeks. The government had appealed in the top court against a decision of the Lucknow Bench of the Armed Forces Tribunal which had ruled in her favour in 2016. Pointing out that her dismissal was "wrong and illegal", the Court noted that the rule against marriage was applicable only to women nursing officers. Women have been fighting a long and uphill battle for gender parity in the Army – they were granted permanent commission after judgments in 2020 and 2021. Words to the effect that the Indian Army is encouraging more women to join the forces have to be backed by deeds.

It is not that the civilian space is much better off, and women are often asked uncomfortable personal questions at job interviews. They are quizzed about future plans on marriage and motherhood. If labour participation of women in the workforce has to increase – in the latest Periodic Labour Force data (October-December 2023), India's is at an abysmal 19.9% for women of all ages – then barriers in education, employment, and opportunities, not to talk of bullying mindsets, have to be broken down. It is a fact that many girls, especially among the poor, have to drop out of school for various reasons, from economic to lack of proper toilets. The UN's Gender Snapshot 2023 had provided a grim picture of where the world is on gender parity, pointing out that if course correction measures are not taken, the next generation of women will still spend a disproportionate amount of time on housework and duties compared to men, and stay off leadership roles. The schemes routinely announced by the government for girls and women will mean little on the ground if they have to abide by restrictive social and cultural norms. The Court's words that rules making marriage of women employees and their domestic involvement a ground for disentitlement are unconstitutional should be heard by all organisations so that the workplace becomes an enabler, and not a hurdle.

Electoral season and restructuring the health system

K. Sujatha Rao

is former Union Health Secretary, Government of India

With the electoral season on, it is going to be raining manifestos. Manifestos are useful documents as they reflect the thinking and priorities of the political parties, besides enabling people to hold the elected party accountable. Given the high stakes and the trend towards current competitive welfarism, the manifestos for 2024 are expected to contain wild promises. It will be interesting to see what space will be accorded to health, education and jobs in the current discourse blinded with temples and distributing consumer goods.

The political outlook

The health section in the 2014 and 2019 manifestos of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress showed commonalities and differentials. Both mentioned revamping the primary health system, ensuring universal health care, expanding human resources, increasing use of technology and so on. The differential was with the Congress underscoring health as a public good that citizens are entitled to as a right and the States' obligation to provide, while the BJP saw health as a commodity, provided through public private partnerships with market based pricing moderated by social health insurance.

After years of stagnation, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), have pushed the needle forward. Under the UPA, the National Rural Health Mission, with three times increased funding, aimed to strengthen the delivery capacity in rural India. Five thousand technical personnel and a million community health workers were deployed and the first large scale pay for performance introduced alongside the first social health insurance programme covering 80% of the population in Andhra Pradesh rapidly expanding to another 13 States.

The NDA ensured continuity of policy by scrapping the Medical Council of India (MCI) and establishing the National Medical Commission (NMC), further strengthened the rural health infrastructure with capital investment, expanded social health insurance and established the National Health Authority to undertake strategic purchasing of services from the public and private sector. The NDA also set up an additional 317 medical colleges and doubled medical seats to 1,09,948. While in gross amounts Budgets increased, in terms of proportion to GDP, public spending under the UPA and NPA hovered around an average of 1.2%.

As can be seen the measures, though impressive, were incremental and did not address the serious issues of reforming the very architecture of the health system that had over years become distorted and dysfunctional. Twenty years is a long time. Other countries of similar economic strength achieved significant outcomes within half the time span. Thailand for example, introduced Universal Health Coverage in 2000, drastically reducing peoples' financial burdens; reduced disease incidence, maternal and infant mortality and consolidated the dominance of the public delivery system, particularly for primary and secondary care. Turkey too introduced, in 2003, its Health Transformation Program under which dual practice (where a government doctor could also do private practice) was banned, strengthened public health infrastructure by adding 50,000 hospital beds and doubling the number of nurses and doctors, and the private sector presence restricted to 20%.

> India needs a strong political leadership that is not only willing to shed its preoccupation with 'high-end' and 'hi-tech' but is also courageous to undertake reforms in a synchronised way

Achievements during 2000-20

A look at country outcomes

Country	IMR/1000 births	MMR/ 1 lakh births	Household expendi-ture (%)	Expenditure on health (% of GDP)
Turkey	30.9 to 8.1	42 to 17	28.6 to 16.9	2.84 to 3.64
Thailand	18.7 to 7.4	43- 27	34.2 to 8.7	1.71 to 3.07
India	66.7 to 27	370-103	71.7 to 53.3	0.83 to 1.08

Source: World Bank. The lower the figure, the harder it is to reduce requiring strong delivery capacity at secondary levels.

With India's maternal mortality three times more than the global average of 38 per one lakh births, India has a long way to go. The primary and secondary health infrastructure is weak with severe shortages of human resources. States such as Bihar still have one doctor serving per 20,000 population. While so, policy focus seems to be shifting towards medical care in tertiary centres, though 95% of ailments and disease reduction can be handled at the primary and secondary level.

Resilient integrated primary health care

Strengthening the base is critical as it is here that community surveillance and demographic data alongside the disease profile of the designated populations get integrated which then enables planning for the right skill mix required to address current and future health needs of the populations. Mapping and accrediting good health facilities enable expanding access points. Spelling out the package of services and making communities aware of their entitlements helps increase accountability. Undertaking such actions in a coordinated and appropriately sequenced manner requires strong local capacity to regulate patient flows and continuity of patient care.

Successful examples of such reform processes show deliberate intent executed to a plan. Thailand's launch of the Universal Health Coverage in 2000 was the end of a planned strategy. For years Thailand had a strong HR policy in place. For five years prior to 2000, Thailand dedicated three quarters of its Budget to building the provincial level health infrastructure with a capacity to provide quality care. Compared to that, India's strategy for UHC has hinged on purchasing services from a private sector operating on the inflationary a fee for service model within the backdrop of severe supply shortages in the system, particularly of specialists and nurses. Due to extensive market failures, worsened by poor capacity to govern, looking to the private sector to deliver is not smart.

Given our political economy, reforming and restructuring our health system is not easy. Not only do we need a strong political leadership that is willing to shed its preoccupation with high-end hospitals, hi-tech diagnostics and digitisation but also have the courage to bite the bullet to undertake reforms in a synchronised fashion starting from the base. Designing and putting in place a system 'fit for purpose' would imply bringing about changes in the medical curriculum, so that doctors work in teams and in rural areas (a recommendation that Mudaliar made in his report of 1959). Having more equitable admission policies and HR policies, such as banning dual practice, delegating functions, creating new cadres and building teams with clarity in their functions will ensure a community/patient outcome-based health system. Establishing IT and monitoring systems that evaluate performance based on outcome data linked to financing will enhance efficiencies and optimise investment. The implication of such a system is that it is predicated on the concepts of decentralisation and operational flexibilities within a proactive, accountability framework that respects the values of equity, human dignity and trust.

The challenge ahead

The challenge is to understand the current system of health care and have the imagination to design the process of reform while building the implementation capacity at the district level by training and upskilling existing staff. Simultaneously, there must be an infusion of new institutional and organisational capacities and resources. Building such a process will take time as every States has a different level of capability. Done well, it can reduce demand for hospitalisation by at least 30%, disease incidence (by bringing in lifestyle changes in the diets we follow and exercises we do), and out-of-pocket expenditures that are likely to increase due to more than 20% of young Indians suffering from multimorbidities and an ageing population – together consuming more drugs and diagnostics.

Can our political parties commit themselves to such a process in their manifestos? Or, is that a big ask, is the question.

Beyond shelter, dweller needs within the four walls

Sarah Khan

works in the area of climate mitigation at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), a Bengaluru-based think tank

Sweta Bhushan

works in the area of climate mitigation at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), a Bengaluru-based think tank

In the interim Budget 2024, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the construction of two crore additional houses over the next five years under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G) and the introduction of a new housing scheme for the middle class. This is a commendable step towards realising the goals of the ambitious 'Housing for All' initiative and builds on the success of the PMAY scheme, which has facilitated the construction of nearly three crore rural and 80 lakh urban affordable houses since 2015.

The announcement also prompts us to critically think about the potential trade-offs with quality of life and environmental concerns as a result of the rapid expansion of the housing sector. This is evident in the case of affordable housing, where the emphasis is on mass production, prioritising speed, cost, and ease of construction over factors such as thermal comfort and the implementation of low-carbon infrastructure.

Modern technologies in affordable housing

Within the framework of the PMAY mission, Light House Projects (LHPs) are underway as part of the Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC), spanning six sites across six States. These LHPs leverage modern technology and innovative processes so as to reduce construction time and build more resilient and affordable houses for the underprivileged. Additionally, there are ongoing efforts to utilise alternative construction technologies such as Mivan. This technology utilises advanced aluminium formwork, which is recyclable and reusable, to cast and construct various building elements. This approach surpasses traditional construction methods in terms of speed and quality and has a relatively lower environmental impact due to reduced wastage in the construction phase.

Though construction technologies such as Mivan offer higher efficiency and reduce the overall duration and cost of the project, they present a conundrum. The extensive use of cement and steel without proper insulation results in increased heat gain from the building envelope, causing thermal distress. Consequently, occupants resort to increased use of cooling appliances such as air conditioners. This reliance on cooling appliances triggers a surge in electricity consumption, thereby contributing to elevated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Further, the predominant use of lower efficiency appliances (despite the availability of high efficiency appliances) owing to lower purchase costs leads to higher electricity consumption and resultant greenhouse gas emissions. This underscores a critical paradox, wherein a technology deemed to offer a low-carbon alternative inadvertently contributes to elevated emissions during the operational stage.

> With the growing significance of the building sector and its contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, it is important to address the environmental impact of construction

Prioritising thermal comfort

The escalating heat stress worldwide is anticipated to affect various population segments, leading to a substantial increase in the demand for cooling. However, the impact of this rising demand will be pronounced among communities belonging to the low-income strata with limited access to cooling amenities. Therefore, to make vulnerable communities resilient to heat stress, it is imperative that building houses go beyond provisioning basic amenities by integrating passive design strategies for thermal comfort. Such steps would help align the 'Housing for All' vision with broader environmental and climate goals.

The pathway to achieving a harmonious balance among multiple goals lies in the obligatory implementation of guidelines embedded within building codes, as demonstrated by initiatives such as Eco Niwas Samhita. This framework directs attention towards refining building envelope characteristics pertaining to specific climate zones, thereby facilitating a thermally comfortable environment within built spaces. The Smart Ghar III project in Rajkot, an affordable housing initiative under the PMAY Untenable Slum Redevelopment project, serves as a prime example of achieving indoor thermal comfort through passive design implementation. As various construction technologies are being tested for LHPs, there is no better opportune time than now to incorporate detailed passive design aspects in building design mandating the adoption of codes and guidelines.

However, the challenge lies in their implementation because of the multi-stakeholder nature of the building value chain. This involves architects, engineers, contractors, material suppliers, and end-users, each with their own priorities, constraints and levels of awareness regarding sustainable practices. One major hurdle in promoting the adoption of passive designs is the lack of tangible benefits perceived by the end-users owing to a lack of awareness. While passive designs offer long-term benefits such as reduced energy bills and improved comfort, these advantages are not always immediately apparent to homeowners.

Therefore, an ecosystem change is needed across the entire value chain to encourage the adoption and rightful implementation of the codes. This requires raising awareness and fostering collaboration among stakeholders and incentivising developers to prioritise passive designs.

Buildings for tomorrow

Considering the growing significance of the building sector and its contribution to GHG emissions, the need to address the environmental impact of construction activities is imperative. With an increasing number of building stocks on the horizon, it is important to analyse the trade-offs between embodied and operational emissions. By weaving environmental consciousness into the fabric of housing initiatives, we can ensure that the homes we build not only shelter individuals but are also robust structures that make residents resilient to a warming climate. This approach ensures that our collective housing aspirations contribute positively to the environment and serve as models for a sustainable and inclusive future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Court's stamp

It is heartening that the Supreme Court of India, time and again, is asserting its supremacy in upholding the rule of law and democratic principles in the country (Page 1, February 21). Its intervention in the Chandigarh mayoral election case can be added to its stand in other important instances such as premature release of the 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case and also the electoral bonds scheme. The adoption of unfair, undemocratic and unethical practices to trample on key institutions set up under the Constitution is nothing but a serious assault on the soul of the country.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Fali Nariman

I write this letter as a former Union Minister for Law and Justice. In the passing of Fali Nariman, the nation has lost a legal luminary who kept the flame of liberty and freedom alive in testing times by his fearless advocacy of the nation's liberal and libertarian conscience. Apart from his powerful advocacy and defence of fundamental rights on several occasions, in and out of courts, his contribution to the Supreme Court of India's constitutional jurisprudence on several other important issues, particularly those concerning the accountability of constitutional power, is etched in the national consciousness.

A gentleman to the core, Mr. Nariman, the jurist, parliamentarian and humanist, will be sorely missed.

Ashwani Kumar,
New Delhi

An undeclared war with nature

Philip Varghese

is a JSPS-UNU postdoctoral fellow associated with the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative in Japan

Wayanad is in a state of undeclared war as seen with the rising human-wildlife conflict in the district. Two recent tragic events occurred – one involving a wild elephant named Belur Makhna, who went on a rampage, crushing a 47-year-old farmer to death and another incident where an elephant herd killed an ecotourism guide at Kuruvadweep Islands. These events have triggered protests and strikes in Kerala. In the ongoing cacophony, one should not miss the onus of responsibility as wildlife experts believe this is only the beginning of what is yet to follow from the Western Ghats if the ecological balance is not restored.

A study report titled *Right of Passage: Elephant Corridors of India,* conducted by Wildlife Trust of India, identified 88 elephant corridors in 2005. As per the report, 24% of the corridors were under reserve forest and 76% under forest, agriculture, tea gardens, and human settlements. Fast forward this data to about 20 years later would invariably show reduced corridors for wildlife. This renders the agricultural fields, tea estates, human habitations, busy highways, and ecotourism spaces as open sites for wildlife movement. It indicates the loss of ecological connectivity and habitat, and the resultant confinement of wildlife to fragmented forests forcing their raids to the surrounding areas.

In Wayanad alone, the official data has documented 51 human deaths due to wildlife attacks during the last 10 years. This number surged to a total of 98 fatalities, encompassing 8,873 attack incidents in the fiscal year 2022-23, with 27 of those deaths attributed to elephant attacks.

These attacks have also inflicted significant damage on Kerala's agriculture sector. Over the period from 2017 to 2023, there were 20,957 cases of crop loss due to incursions by wild animals, leading to the death of 1,559 domestic animals, primarily cattle. A staggering 7,000 plus applications are pending compensation from the government for human deaths, property, and crop loss.

The clearing of forest lands for non-forest use marked the beginning of the destruction of natural ecosystems and this was further accentuated by the provision of contract farming agreements to claim uncultivated land. The move led to an agrarian crisis that highlighted drastic changes in the topographical atmosphere and landscape accompanied by a price crash indicating a weakened ecosystem.

The trend of monoculture plantations and the usage of pesticides and insecticides depleted the soil. This disturbance was evident in the diminished yield of cash crops and diseases, impacting the plantations despite favourable market prices, of late. Further, it worsened by quarrying and deforestation activities for the expansion of monoculture plantations and the tourism industry. Today, 36,000 hectares out of the 1 lakh hectares of Wayanad forests are monoculture plantations.

The tourism industry has expanded to bustling destinations towards the forest edges and wildlife corridors. The connectivity with the nearby cities of Bengaluru and Mysuru and the post lockdown induced revenge tourism have aggravated this steep climb in tourist arrivals. In Wayanad, it is also ironic to see the forest department's role in uncontrolled ecotourism, contributing to the issues of cattle grazing, invasive plants, and forest fires destroying wildlife habitats wherein they are expected to protect the quality of the forest.

Now, the peaks, lakes, waterfalls, sanctuaries, dams, and plantations are all converted as tourism products to make human activities appear harmless without sufficient studies on their several impacts. The economic consequences of the destruction of the environment, the ecotourism in the region, invasive species, and wild animals, combined with the violation of all standards, have led to the degradation of Wayanad's ecology.

In addition, non-native trees planted inside the forests have denied food and water for the animals which is resulting in the evacuation of animals from the forest areas as the interiors are turning to barren lands.

The continuous struggle of scientists and activists demanding the revival of the habitat management of Wayanad's forests has fallen on deaf ears. The officials have not yet addressed the concerns.

The recent Operation Jumbo parade captured nine elephants and two were released to Kerala with radio collars installed, without adequate surveillance and no watchers to follow. This has to be investigated first and the government needs to extend its efforts to ensure proper monitoring, continuous conservation, and public awareness.

Following the tragic incident, the government has announced the formation of a high-level panel comprising officials from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and rapid response teams. However, first, an effort from the Forest, Revenue, and Tourism departments is required to assess the situation and chalk strategies by recognising the fragility of the region. Second, a statutory body is required to coordinate the issues spread across the three south Indian States under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Third, the Forest Conservation Act should be enforced with a Free and Prior Informed Consent principle which is recognised as a critical process of stakeholder engagement to prevent degradation. While it is high time for the Kerala forest department to implement strategies to protect and revive the forests, we should also understand that in a war with nature, no human would survive.

Views expressed are personal

It is high time for the Kerala forest department to implement strategies to protect and revive the forests in the State

T.N.'s Agri Budget: hits and misses

Critics feel that core issues haven't received the due attention

STATE OF PLAY

T. Ramakrishnan
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Even as the DMK regime in Tamil Nadu came out on February 20 with its fourth exclusive Budget for agriculture, the debate is on among policymakers, agriculturists, experts, and political figures about the efficacy of the exercise.

While proponents of the idea of a separate Budget highlight that the farm sector, as a whole, hogs the limelight, critics feel that core issues are yet to receive the attention that they deserve.

The concept of an agriculture Budget was one of the assurances of the ruling party at the time of the 2021 Assembly poll and this was fulfilled when the maiden Budget was presented that year. As is known, the Budget illustrates the government's plans of allocations not just for the agriculture department but also for others that have a bearing on the farm sector. For example, the latest Budget talks of ₹16,500 crore as the target for the coming year's short term crop loans, which are disbursed through primary agricultural cooperative credit societies (PACCS) that come under the direct ambit of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies in the Department of Cooperation. The proposed allocations of at least half a dozen departments that impact agriculture and farmers have also been presented in a concise manner.

At the macro level, the outlay made under the Revenue Expenditure for the entire sector comes to about ₹33,480 crore, which is nearly 10% of the State's total Revenue Expenditure. Combined with capital expenditure, the overall outlay is around ₹42,282 crore for 2024-25 against ₹34,221 crore for 2021-22.

This year's highlight is a programme on soil health improvement – the CM's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom Scheme (CM MK MKS). It will have 22 components at an outlay of ₹206 crore during 2024-2025. As part of the scheme, green manure seeds will be distributed to cover two lakh acres, benefitting farmers. The second and third sets of abbreviations in the English title of the scheme may remind any discerning observer of the references to the names of former CM M. Karunanidhi and the present, M.K. Stalin.

A top official emphasises that a separate Budget facilitates higher allocation, a point that the critics feel that would have been possible even in the earlier scheme of presenting an encompassing Budget. However, the official is of the view that convergence of schemes, being implemented by departments other than agriculture, is done in a better way and at all levels – from village to the State. Such schemes are being carried out by the departments of Water Resources, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and Animal Husbandry.

The Budget approach enables attention to area specific improvement for which strategies are being planned and schemes formulated. Increase in the area, production and productivity of crops, climate resilient cropping system, natural farming and conservation of traditional varieties are among the areas being covered.

On the flip side, the lack of price support for crops such as paddy and sugarcane is cited as a shortcoming. The critics are quick to point out that contrary to its electoral promises, the ruling party had not determined incentive amounts in such a manner that the support price for paddy would go up to ₹2,500 per quintal and for sugarcane, ₹4,000 per tonne.

An agricultural scientist says that the focus appears to be more on the distribution of inputs than on technological intervention, market support and agro-processing. The volume of crop loans, disbursed through PACCS, seems to have stagnated over the last 15 years and this is an adverse reflection of the space being enjoyed by the credit cooperative societies in the area of agricultural credit. The authorities should pay attention to address this problem.

In his Budget speech, Agriculture Minister M. R. K. Panneerselvam himself referred to the shortfall in meeting the demand for pulses and oilseeds. For example, as against the annual requirement of nearly 18.5 lakh tonnes of edible oil, the State could produce only 4.85 lakh tonnes.

It is an open secret that the finances of the State government are under strain on account of various pulls and pressures. The government would do well by substantially increasing the allocation for the farm sector and cutting down expenditure on populist schemes. Perhaps, next year's agriculture and general Budget will reflect such an approach.

India's smartphone exports rise from 1% to 2.5% in a decade

In the same period, Vietnam's share in global smartphone exports grew from 1% to 12%

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

In recent times, India has laid much emphasis on smartphone exports. In November 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded phone exports as they crossed the $5 billion mark. At the 2023 India Mobile Congress, Mr. Modi said "soon the whole world will be using made-in-India phones". The government credited the Production Linked Incentive scheme for major smartphone companies shifting their suppliers to India. These were in line with the ambitious target set in the National Policy on Electronics 2019, that India will be exporting 600 million mobile phones worth $110 billion by 2025.

With barely a year left for this goal, India's smartphone exports are hovering below $10 billion a year, just a fraction of the target. While India continues to manufacture a significant number of smartphones, most of it is consumed domestically. Recently, Reuters reported on a letter and a confidential presentation drafted by the IT Ministry earlier in January this year, in which, Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar had expressed his concerns about India losing out to China and Vietnam due to high tariffs on import of mobile components.

The Indian government reduced import duty on mobile parts such as lenses, battery and back covers from 15% to 10%, by January-end. However, India continues to impose a 20% tax on chargers and circuit boards.

The IT Minister's apprehensions are borne out by the data. In particular, Vietnam attracted many firms which were looking to reduce dependency on China. While China continues to dominate, Vietnam has eaten into its export share steadily over the years, taking over from South Korea as the second-biggest smartphone exporter.

Chart 1 shows the country-wise share of smartphone exports. Both India and Vietnam had less than 1% export share before 2010. By 2022, Vietnam's share rose to 12%, while India ranked seventh with a little over 2.5% export share. While China continues to form the lion's share by exporting half of the world's smartphones in 2022, the consistently upward trend it witnessed before 2015 is not seen anymore. Hong Kong, UAE, the Czech Republic, the U.S. and South Korea are other players in the export market.

Vietnam's staggering rise can be attributed to its fast-paced growth in the U.S. smartphone market which is the biggest importer of mobiles. Between 2018 and 2022, Vietnam's share in U.S. smartphone imports doubled from 9% to 18% as shown in **Chart 2**. It has also marginally improved its share to 1% in Hong Kong's smartphone imports – the world's second biggest importer – where India's share is insignificant. Japan, the world's fourth biggest importer, gets 6% of its imported smartphones from Vietnam, close to three times more than India's share.

However, in UAE and Germany – the world's third and fifth biggest smartphone importers –Vietnam's share in imports is decreasing and in both these countries India's share is growing. India's share in UAE's smartphone imports increased from about 5% in 2018 to over 13% in 2022, while Vietnam's declined from 31.8% to 13.5%. In Germany, Vietnam's share declined from about 20% to 10% in 2022, while India's increased to about 5% from a negligible share in 2018.

Within India, Tamil Nadu leads smartphone exports with close to 38% of India's mobiles being sent out from Kancheepuram as shown in **Chart 3**. Gautam Buddha Nagar of Uttar Pradesh and Kolar in Karnataka are other districts leading in smartphone exports.

Vietnam comes calling

The data for the charts were sourced from ITC Trade Map, UN Comtrade and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Chart 1: The chart shows the country-wise share of smartphone exports. Figures in %

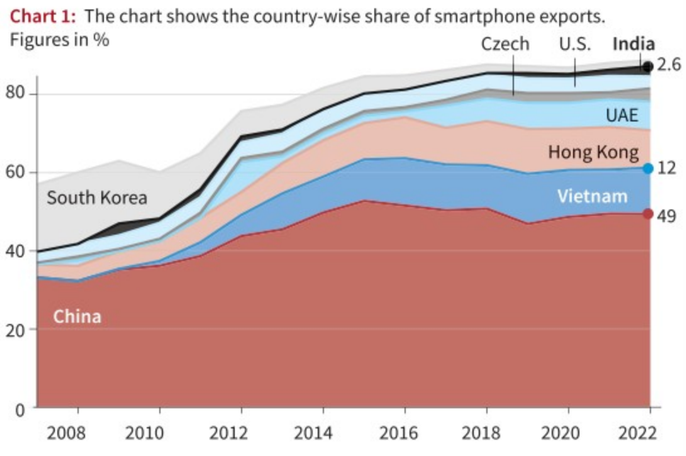


Chart 2: The chart shows the dependence of major smartphone importers. Data is presented for the top five importers of smartphones. Figures in %

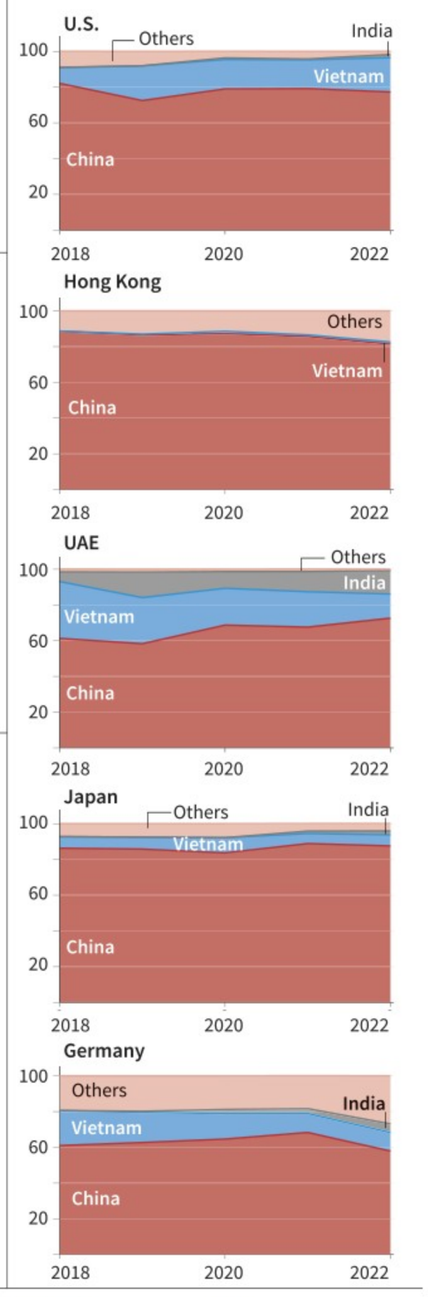
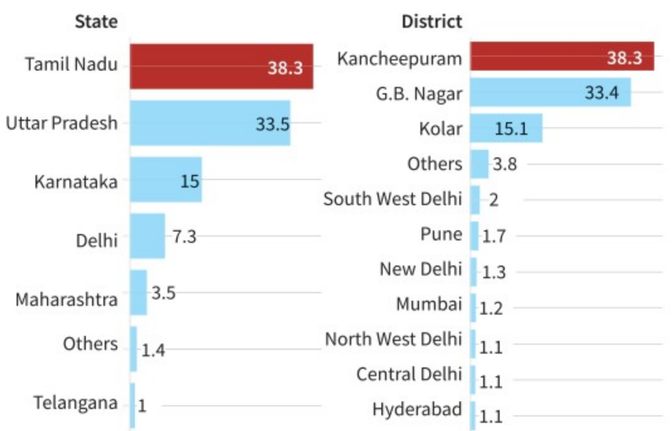


Chart 3: The chart shows the share of States and districts in India's smartphone exports between FY23 and FY24 (April-November). Figures in %



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 22, 1974

IA lifts Lock-out for pilots

New Delhi, Feb. 21: An agreement was signed here this afternoon between the management of Indian Airlines and the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA). Consequently, the lock-out in the case of pilots has been lifted with immediate effect. The ICPA has also taken steps to withdraw the cases filed by it and some of its members in the Calcutta High Court challenging the legality of the lock-out "in a spirit of constructive cooperation".

With the signing of the agreement between ICPA and IA management, the Air Cooperation Employees' Union (ACEU) is the only union which is yet to reach an agreement with the management.

The agreement with the ICPA will enable the IA to restore complete normalcy in its air services. It will also help the IA reschedule its air services and introduce a day service from Madras to Delhi which has been long overdue. The terms of the agreement have not been made known but it is understood that both the management and the ICPA have had to make some concessions.

The IA imposed the lock-out on November 25. Till the end of January, the IA has suffered a loss of Rs. 26 crores. Though the lock-out had hit the air services badly the IA had managed to operate restricted services which were progressively increased with more employees returning to work. But with only 170 out of its 400 pilots returning to work by signing individual undertakings, the IA could operate only upto 80 per cent of its normal services and Sunday flights had to remain suspended.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 22, 1924

Baby Week and criticism

London, Feb. 20: Some surprise has been caused by the "Daily Mail's" belated criticism of the Baby Week in India especially as it does not reflect the general opinion of the press here including, the "Times" which during the Baby Week published favourable comments on it. Viscountess Chelmsford, Founder of the All-India Maternity Welfare Association, interviewed by Reuter was delighted at the success of the Baby Week and the active participation of Lady Reading. She declared that the association had already thoroughly proved the value of accumulating knowledge and combating the high infant mortality.

From Page One

‘Let’s proceed with IMEC despite Gaza war‘

“Launched during India’s G-20 chairmanship, the IMEC corridor will contribute significantly to the development of humanity in the long run. Greece can also become an important partner in this initiative,” he added.

While the IMEC MoU launch took place in September 2023, during the G-20 summit in New Delhi, the founding members of the initiative, including India, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Mauritius, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, have been unable to meet, as stipulated by the MoU for the past six months due to the conflict in Gaza.

Israel’s Haifa port, owned by India’s Adani Group, was expected to be a key trading point for the ship-and-rail route proposed under IMEC from India’s west coast, through the UAE and Saudi Arabia to Jordan and Israel, before reaching Greece’s Piraeus Port and on to the rest of Europe.

HC revokes contentious part of order on ST tag

The review petition of the Meitei petitioners was, in the meantime, heard and decided by a Bench of Justice Golmei Gaiphulshillu, which dismissed the tribal bodies’ application to be impleaded in the case and delivered its order on Wednesday.

“I am satisfied and of the view that the direction given at Paragraph No. 17(iii) of the Hon’ble Single Judge dated 27.03.2023... needs to be reviewed, as the direction... is against the observation made in the Constitution Bench of the Hon’ble Supreme Court,” the court noted.

While the Meitei petitioners had called for a change in the language, allowing for the State government to exercise its discretion, the court decided to delete the said paragraph altogether.

While Paragraph 17(iii) was removed on Wednesday, the previous paragraph of the March 2023 order had also directed the Manipur government to “submit the recommendation in reply” to the Union government.

Govt. approves 100% FDI in space sector

The amended policy extends the facility of up to 74% FDI under the automatic route for satellite manufacturing and operation, satellite data products and ground/user segment.

Beyond 74%, these activities are under government route.

Up to 49% FDI under the automatic route will be allowed for launch vehicles and associated systems or subsystems, and creation of spaceports for launching and receiving spacecraft. Beyond 49%, these activities will be under government route.

Mr. Thakur said up to 100% FDI under the automatic route would be permitted for manufacturing of components and systems/sub-systems for satellites, ground segment and user segment.

The satellites sub-sector has been divided into three different activities with defined limits for foreign investment in each such sector.

As per the existing FDI policy, foreign investment is allowed in establishment and operation of satellites via government-approval route only.

SP, Congress finalise seat-sharing deal

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress – partners in the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) – on Wednesday announced a seat-sharing agreement in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh for the upcoming Lok Sabha election.

The Congress has been allotted 17 seats in Uttar Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh, the SP will contest the Khajuraho seat and support the Congress in the remaining 28 seats in the State.

Priyanka’s call

A phone call from Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to SP president Akhilesh Yadav sealed the deal on seat-sharing, said a source.

The talks had almost hit a dead end until Ms. Vadra worked the phone lines to convince Mr. Yadav, the source said.

The source claimed that the Congress was getting a “raw deal” earlier, as they had very low chances of winning the seats that were earlier offered to them.

After the conversation between Ms. Vadra and Mr. Yadav, however, the Congress has got seats such as Sitapur and Barabanki, apart from Saharanpur and Amroha. In the Moradabad division, the Congress was asking for two Lok Sabha seats but has agreed on Amroha alone.

“I am pleased to inform you that it has been decided that in U.P., the Congress will contest 17 Lok Sabha seats and for the remaining 63 seats, the INDIA bloc will have nominees from the SP and other parties,” Uttar Pradesh Congress In-charge Avinash Pande said in Lucknow, at a joint press conference attended by SP State president Naresh Uttam Patel, SP chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary, and Congress State president Ajay Rai.

The SP had earlier announced that it would join Rahul Gandhi’s Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra only after the finalisation of a seat-sharing deal for Uttar Pradesh.

(With inputs from Sandeep Phukan in New Delhi)

21-year-old farmer killed on Punjab-Haryana boundary

Unions condemn the Central govt.; march is on hold but struggle will continue after discussion, says Kisan Mazdoor Morcha; Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda invites leaders for talks again

Vikas Vasudeva
A. M. Jigeesh
SHAMBHU/NEW DELHI

Anxious moments: A tear gas shell explodes after being fired upon the protesting farmers during their ‘Delhi Chalo’ march near the Shambu barrier on Wednesday. PTI

A 21-year-old farmer was killed on Wednesday as protesting farmers made a fresh attempt to resume their march to Delhi from Punjab, where they have been camping for the last nine days. The situation continues to be tense amid the ongoing stand-off between the Centre and the farmers.

According to a Punjab government statement, farmer Shubhkaran Singh from Balloh village in Bathinda suffered a fatal head injury at Dhabi Gujran. He was taken to Rajindra Hospital in Patiala where he was declared dead.

The cause of the injury is yet to be ascertained. The statement added that nine people suffered injuries at Shambhu and 14 at Dhabi Gujran, near Khanauri-Jind.

Farmer leaders have alleged that Shubhkaran Singh was hit by a rubber bullet.

The Haryana Police resorted to the use of tear gas through drones (UAVs) and rubber bullets when farmer groups entered Haryana to head to the national capital.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said a police case would be registered after the postmortem of Shubhkaran Singh and action taken against those found responsible.

The Haryana Police said that at the Data Singhwala-Khanauri border, the protesters surrounded the police from all sides. They said protesters used sticks, stones and chilli powder against them, leaving at least 12 policemen injured.

MSP demand

The Kisan Mazdoor Morcha and the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) – the two umbrella bodies of around 200 farmer and farm labourer unions – had given the call for the march to lay siege to the national capital to press for fulfilment of their demands, including a legal guarantee for purchasing their crops at a Minimum Support Price (MSP) and loan waivers.

At Shambhu, KMM coordinator Sarwan Singh Pandher said that a group of farmer leaders had started to move towards Haryana peacefully, but they were attacked with tear gas shells and rubber bullets. “We want to tell the Centre that this struggle will continue. We have decided to put the march to Delhi on hold for two days. We will have discussions against the backdrop of the Khanauri incident, and then we will take a call,” he said.

Even as the leaders of the SKM (Non-Political) ruled out the possibility for another round of dialogue with the Centre, the government maintained that it is ready for discussions. Union Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda said the Centre had four rounds of discussions and is ready for the fifth round on issues such as minimum support price, crop diversification, stubble burning and FIRs on farmers. “I invite the leaders of farmers once again for discussions. We have to maintain peace,” he said.

The SKM and several trade unions condemned the killing of the young protester.

Protest call

The trade unions have said that February 23 would be observed as a Black Day in protest. “The ruling regime at the Centre and their party ruling in States are conspiring to use all means to crush any opposition,” the central trade unions said in a statement.

The SKM said the killing was a brutal assault on breadwinners from farmer families and added that Mr. Modi and the government were responsible for the present crisis.

It said its national coordination committee and the general body, meeting in Chandigarh on Thursday, would discuss the situation and take decisive action to advance the struggle.

About 100 Indians recruited as Russian Army helpers: official

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

People from many countries, including Pakistan, were hired by Russian Army over past 18 months

Over the past one year, around 100 Indians were recruited by the Russian Army at its Moscow recruitment centre, according to an official who works for the Russian Ministry of Defence.

The Indian-origin official told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity that all recruits are apprised about the risks related to the job before they signed the contract to join as “army security helpers”.

‘No money taken’

He said no money was charged by the Russian Army before their recruitment. The actual number of Indians who have been hired could be higher, the official said, while sharing the statistics for only the Moscow centre as there are other recruitment centres in Russia.

The contract is valid for a minimum of one year and mandates no leave or exit before six months of service. The workers were offered ₹1.95 lakh salary per month and ₹50,000 as additional benefits.

“The workers undergo a psychometric test and are explained the risks before they are sent for training. Since they are hired as helpers, it all depends on the command to which they will be sent. It could either be to the battlefield or they may be asked to work as porters. Their consent is taken. A background check is conducted to ensure no spies are recruited,” the official said.

The Hindu reported first on Tuesday that at least three Indians who were hired as security helpers by Russia were forced to fight alongside that country’s forces on the Russia-Ukraine border in January. One of the men, a resident of Uttar Pradesh, said that they were conned by an agent, who told them they would not be sent to the war zone. The workers said their passports and documents had been snatched and they were not being allowed to return. They said desperate pleas for help with the Indian Embassy in Moscow had gone unheeded.

On Wednesday, more Indians came forward to seek the government’s intervention.

Two residents each from Jammu and Kashmir, and Karnataka, dressed in combat uniforms, shared a video message with *The Hindu* from Russia.

The Russian official said that people from several countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan, were being hired by the Russian Army over the past one-and-a-half years.

Russia and Ukraine have been at war since February 24, 2022. While a few Indians volunteered to join the International Legion, the presence of Indians on the Russian side in a combat role has been reported the first time.

Court says Vedanta can refurbish closed plant in Thoothukudi

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said Vedanta Limited could refurbish its Thoothukudi copper smelting plant, closed six years ago on the grounds of environmental pollution, provided that it follows expert advice on environmental safeguards and also makes an upfront deposit in an escrow account for this purpose.

“We can allow you to refurbish, six years have gone by... We can direct you to put some money upfront, say in an escrow, as a bona fide measure that you will comply with all the environmental safeguards framed by an expert panel of which the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) will be a part. After all, it is the State’s land. They have the remit,” Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a three-judge Bench, addressed senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Vedanta.

Expert committee

The court said it had “an obligation to protect the welfare of the local community in Thoothukudi. They are a voiceless people”.

Mr. Divan suggested that the “way forward” would be to appoint an expert committee with representatives from the Environment Ministry, NEERI, the Central Pollution Control Board, the Indian Institute of Technology, Vedanta, along with three independent members as well as officers of the TNPCB. He proposed that the committee, chaired by a retired SC judge, could recommend conditions for reopening the plant, including additional environmental safeguards, within a month.

‘No remedial steps’

The TNPCB, however, strongly countered that the plant had been closed due to extensive pollution in the area. Several committees had asked the company to take remedial measures, but they were not complied with.

Referring to the court’s remarks that the plant was a “national asset” which the country cannot afford to lose, senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan said balancing national interests did not mean reopening the plant at the cost of the lives of the local people.

Centre increases FRP of sugarcane; will be in force from Oct. 1

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), which met here on Wednesday, approved ₹340/quintal as the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2024-25 at sugar recovery rate of 10.25%. This is about 8% higher than FRP of sugarcane for the current season 2023-24. The revised FRP will be applicable from October 1, 2024.

Briefing reporters about the decision, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the Union government always gave importance to the issues of farmers and sugarcane farmers in India get the highest price for their produce compared to other countries.

“At 107% higher than A2+FL cost of sugarcane, the new FRP will ensure prosperity of sugarcane farmers,” he said. When asked about the ongoing protests for guaranteed MSP, he said many crops in the country were procured at the best prices globally.

Nod for continuation of women safety scheme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Home Ministry’s proposal for continuation of the implementation of “Safety of Women” umbrella scheme at ₹1,179.72 crore for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. It will include scaling up of the 112 helpline; and setting up of six cyber forensic science labs in Pune, Kamrup (Assam), Bhopal, Chandigarh, Kolkata and Delhi and a National Forensic Data Centre.

‘INDIA bloc parties must rise above differences’

RJD leader says Nitish is a ‘tired’ CM and the contest in Bihar is with BJP; he adds that the real issues are inflation, poverty, joblessness, education

INTERVIEW

Tejashwi Yadav

Amit Bhelari

Back in the Opposition after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar switched sides again in Bihar to join hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav has set out on a 11-day Jan Vishwas Yatra of the entire State. The former Deputy Chief Minister says it is important to tell people what he did during the 17 months in government. Excerpts:

Why did you decide to embark upon the Jan Vishwas Yatra?

It is important to tell people what I did during the 17 months in government as the Deputy Chief Minister. I want to tell the people of Bihar how Nitish Kumar has ditched their mandate by taking oath as Chief Minister three times in just one term. He pledges to throw Prime Minister Narendra Modi out of power and then forms a government with him. Does he have any ideology? I don’t think so.

What could be the possible reasons for Nitish Kumar breaking the alliance with RJD?

He is the better person to answer this question but yes, he was in pain because I was working hard to ensure that the promises I made get fulfilled.

He was also in pain because his party [Janata Dal-United] was third in Bihar and the RJD came first [in the Assembly poll]. I know why he came to us but really don’t know why he left.

He had promised to unite the Opposition and he was offered the post of convener of the INDIA bloc, but he did not accept it.

Who is the bigger threat for RJD in upcoming LS polls, JD(U) or BJP?

Our fight is with BJP. Nitish *ji* is a tired Chief Minister and JD(U) is a politically expired party.

During the 17 months in government, did you ever get the feeling that Nitish Kumar will leave the *Mahagatbandhan?*

I had decided to give jobs to 1.5 lakh public health officers... I was wondering why he was sitting on the files and not giving approval. I was also rigid on implementing the Old Pension Scheme.

We did the caste-based headcount apart from giving nearly five lakh jobs.

All this work was done by me and I had this feeling that he was not liking it.

Would the inauguration of Ram Temple in Ayodhya have a bearing on the upcoming Lok Sabha election outcome?

I don’t think that it would make any impact in Bihar or any other State. The real issues are inflation, poverty, unemployment, good education, and good health facilities.

The INDIA bloc is on the brink of collapse...

It is my personal opinion that if [Opposition] parties believe democracy and the Constitution are in danger, they should be ready to sacrifice small things and contest together.

Fali Nariman, who advocated for an independent judiciary, dies

The former Additional Solicitor-General stood for secular values and championed free speech; and would, time and again, highlight that fair and independent judges were a basic feature of the Constitution; he received Padma Vibhushan in 2007

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

FALI SAM NARIMAN (1929- 2024)

Fali Sam Nariman, prominent sentinel on the *qui vive* for secular values, died on Wednesday. He was 95.

"I have been brought up to think and feel that the minorities, together with the majority community, are integral parts of India. I have lived and flourished in a secular India. In the fullness of time, if God wills, I would also like to die in a secular India," the eminent jurist wrote in the final chapter of his autobiography *Before Memory Fades*.

Nariman was the seniormost advocate for the independence of the judiciary. He would, time and again, highlight in his arguments in the Supreme Court, numerous media interviews, and public speeches that fair and independent judges were a basic feature of the Constitution. He watched over the Supreme Court and its falter-and-steady trajectory with eyes mellowed by years and a patient heart. Judges looked up to him and admitted so too.

Sabarimala case

When he criticised the Supreme Court for converting the *Sabarimala* case review into a roving inquiry into the essential religious practices of minority religions like Islam and Zorastrianism by a nine-judge Bench, the then Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde agreed he had a "powerful argument there".

He disapproved of judges "seeking jobs or a seat in Parliament" from the government. He feared that such post-retirement dalliances affected public faith in judicial sanctity.

God Save the Supreme Court, a book he authored the same year as the unprecedented press conference held by four senior judges in January 2018, did not mince words. He said what was lacking in the Supreme Court was collegiality among judges.

He conveyed his displeasure to Chief Justice S.H. Kapadia when the latter had sought his assistance to frame restrictive guidelines on the Press covering the Supreme Court. As a citizen, he championed free speech, but made it a point to say "that the Press must serve the governed, not those who govern".

He had resigned as Additional Solicitor-General of India with a one-line letter addressed to the Law Minister after the imposition of censorship during the Emergency.

"Unfortunately, we keep forgetting the 'of' part in the 'of the people, by the people and for the people'. If the government is indeed for the people, it has a solemn obligation to keep the people well-informed," he once wrote to *The Hindu*.

The constitutional lawyer poked holes in government claims in court that the National Judicial Appointments Commission was the "will of the people" and the "nation wants it". "I may be permitted (somewhat impertinently) to ask which nation? The nation of the haves or the nation of the have-nots?... no one has yet devised a reliable method of ascertaining the wishes of the people," Nariman quipped.

He criticised the Centre's "deliberate inaction and delay" over Supreme Court Collegium recommendations. The government, he said, ought to be a "distinguished communicator".

He took criticism on the chin. To comments that he should never have appeared for the Union Carbide Corporation in the *Bhopal gas tragedy* civil case, Nariman said one got wiser (though not necessarily) with age.

Wry humour

A raconteur, his stories ranged from his perilous flight from Burma (present day Myanmar) to India as a child to his sharing "half a seat" in the chambers of Sir Jamshedji Kanga as a junior lawyer in Bombay High Court. His wry, self-deprecatory humour usually couched a serious message.

Consider his anecdote of Vice-President B.S. Shekhawat visiting him at home after he won the Padma Vibhushan (country's second highest civilian honour) in 2007 to say "I have come to tell you that my own doctor as well as the President's doctor was given a Republic Day award". A telling comment on the system of patronage behind awards, Nariman, whose tenure as Rajya Sabha member saw him speak up against the killings during the Gujarat riots, mused.

He preferred the Indian version of Lady Justice over the blindfolded Victorian one. "How do you wield the sword of punishment with your eyes deliberately closed? In your blind fury for doing justice, you might strike at the innocent party and not the guilty one!" he wrote.

He had a tireless enthusiasm to learn. He surrendered his chambers outside the Supreme Court, preferring to sit in courtrooms to listen and learn, or talk with friends in the court lounge.

On Wednesday, when Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud recalled Nariman as a "giant intellectual", a downcast-looking lawyer in the courtroom said Nariman was finalising his written submissions in an impending Constitution Bench case late last night. "The race is over, but the work is never while the power to work remains," he wrote.

He is survived by his son, former Supreme Court justice Rohinton F. Nariman, and daughter, Anaheeta F. Nariman.

Political leaders pay rich tributes to jurist

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Tributes poured in from across the spectrum at the demise of jurist Fali S. Nariman on Wednesday.

Condoling his death, President Droupadi Murmu described him as a titan among legal luminaries, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalled how Nariman was devoted to making justice accessible.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge described him as a fierce votary of constitutional civil liberties, while party leader Rahul Gandhi said his contributions have inspired generations of jurists to uphold the sanctity of Constitution.

Age had dimmed neither his vigour nor intensity

Sriram Panchu
is senior advocate, Madras High Court

Nariman did not mince words, he did not spare persons who needed to be called out

The country and its legal profession suffered an irreparable loss on Wednesday when Fali Sam Nariman crossed the bar to move to the Almighty's court. He was 95, but age had dimmed neither the vigour nor the intensity of the man. His last book was published just a few months ago, his article in the *Indian Express* on the sidelining of Justice Muralidhar, co-authored with Justice Madan Lokur and this writer, is recent, and his interview with Karan Thapar on the *Article 370* case still fresh in memory. "Old lawyers don't fade away, they just lose their appeal," is a humourism in legal circles, but Fali neither faded nor lost his appeal to the many who loved and respected him.

Nariman was many things and so it is not difficult to write about him. He was many splendoured in what he did, so it is difficult, nay impossible, to paint a complete picture of the man and his work. As an advocate, he was head and shoulders above his peers. His stentorian voice and forceful delivery, unassailable logic, deep knowledge of the law, and assiduous preparation backed by a reputation for unwavering integrity made him an opponent to dread. But he was fairness personified in his duty to court and profession, and while he could bring down senior lawyers with ease, he was kind and encouraging to juniors. Decades ago, when in the *Ram Setu* case, I opened the environmental arguments against the Sethusamudram Shipping Channel before the Chief Justice's Bench, Nariman was lead counsel for the government. When I finished, he said, loudly, "Now that is the way a case should be argued." I prize no encomium more. Since then I have received many kindnesses from this hero of mine, including a sparkling introduction to my book *Mediation Practice and Law*.

He was far more than the best lawyer. He was a prolific writer, and his books on law and justice carry a lightness of touch with the depth of mastery from years of engagement and reflection. He was one of the best public speakers, lacing his speeches with anecdotes, wit, and wisdom. Much sought after for public interviews, he was both accessible and articulate. And he was the public intellectual par excellence, who kept standards of probity at a premium. Above all was his attitude to power. He cared a hoot for the power of power, and for those who wielded it wrongly. He delivered two notable slaps in the face – one for Mrs. Gandhi's government immediately after the Emergency was proclaimed, when he resigned as Additional Solicitor-General, and another for the Gujarat government after the attack on Christians in the State, when he returned its briefs. He was the tallest lawyer in the country, but he never became the Attorney-General, no prizes for guessing why.

There is a clarity of mind that comes from exercising the faculty of plainspeak, which is lost to those who fail to speak when they should. Nariman did not mince words, he did not spare persons who needed to be called out. He called a spade a spade, not a flawed diamond. And the higher the office holder, the sharper the phrase. But anger was less acute than disappointment. For he was not focused on running down a person, his cross hairs were fixed on issue and action and consequence. Secular India had no better champion than him. Parsi himself, born in Rangoon, early years in Bombay, he knew the intrinsic value of the mosaic that this country is, and he abhorred the unichrome. In the *St. Stephens College* case, he helped to bring in the law to protect minority educational institutions, and he deeply deplored the failure of the court to scotch the controversies around places of worship.

He was one of a very select group of those who stood out boldly and strongly, in conviction, attitude, thought, and speech – The League of Extraordinary Legal Gentlemen. With his passing, the candle dims. While our farewells are lacerated with grief, we must remember however that the best tribute we can pay, and the best testament of our love and respect for him is to hold fast to the traditions he exemplified. If we do that, the Old Warrior will rest in peace.

I-T Dept. 'mandated' banks to withdraw ₹65 crore from Congress accounts: Maken

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The department earlier raised a demand of ₹210 crore from party over its discrepancy in filing IT returns

The Congress alleged on Wednesday that the Income Tax (I-T) Department has "mandated" banks to withdraw ₹65 crore from its accounts held in different banks.

Accounts of the Indian National Congress, the Indian Youth Congress (IYC), and the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) have all been marked out by the I-T Department, Congress treasurer Ajay Maken said.

"Yesterday, the Income Tax Department mandated banks to transfer over ₹65 crores from @INCIndia, IYC, and NSUI accounts to the government – ₹5 crore from IYC and NSUI, and ₹60.25 crore from INC, marking a concerning move by the BJP government," Mr. Maken said in a post on X. "The funds in question were raised through grassroots efforts, including crowdfunding and membership drives by the IYC and the NSUI. This situation raises a crucial question about the state of democracy. Is it under threat? Our hope now lies with the judiciary," Mr. Maken added.

Tax dispute

The action is part of an ongoing tax dispute. The I-T Department had raised a demand of ₹210 crore from the Congress over its discrepancy in filing I-T returns for the 2018-2019 assessment year. The matter is now being heard by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, which has allowed the Opposition party to operate its accounts after keeping ₹115 crore in lien.

However, the Congress has questioned the timing of the move and alleged that it is aimed at "crippling" the election preparations of the party. "Is it common for National Political Parties to pay Income Tax? No. Does the BJP pay Income Tax? No. Why then is the Congress Party facing an unprecedented demand of ₹210 crore?" Mr. Maken asked.

The tribunal heard the case on Wednesday and will continue the hearing on Thursday.

Five-day break for yatra, as Rahul to deliver lectures at Cambridge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI:

The Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra will take a five-day break from February 26 to March 1 as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will be visiting Cambridge University to deliver lectures for two days, the party said on Wednesday. It added that he also would attend important meetings in Delhi

"February 26 to March 1 will be break days to enable Rahul Gandhi to fulfil his long-standing commitment to deliver two special lectures at his alma mater Cambridge University on February 27 and February 28 and also to enable him to attend other important meetings in New Delhi," Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said.

Resuming its journey after the five-day break from Dholpur on March 2, the yatra will travel through Morena, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna, Shajapur and Ujjain, among other districts in Madhya Pradesh.

Senior leaders will resolve INDIA bloc issues, says Pawar

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar party leader Sharad Pawar on Wednesday said there were differences among parties in some States within the INDIA bloc. He said senior leaders from within the bloc would try to resolve the issues.

He said: "In Uttar Pradesh, there is an absence of understanding over the seat-sharing formula. The other State is West Bengal, where there are some more problems. The reason being that parties there like the Trinamool Congresss, the CPI(M) and the Congress have been traditionally opposed to each other." "Our strategy is that wherever it is possible, we are addressing the issues, and wherever there are differences, senior leaders, especially from outside that State, will sit and address these issues and that process will start soon," he said.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग कोटा
क्रमांक-2508 दिनांक: 13.02.2024
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 32/ पीएमजीएसवाई/2023-24
NIB No. PWD2324A4478
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजनान्तर्गत स्वीकृत सड़कों के चौड़ाईकरण एवं सुदृढीकरण कार्य के निम्नलिखित कार्यों मय पांच साल की मरम्मत के लिए 3 पैकेज हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग /रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। पैकेजवाईज यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
UBN No. : 1. PWD2324WLOB19256 2. PWD2324WSOB19257 3. PWD2324WLOB19259
इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेब साईट http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।
(ए.के.साहू)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता,
सा.नि.वि. संभाग-कोटा
DIPR/C/1069/2024

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Joint Commissioner, BBMP East Zone, Mayohall, M.G.Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
No:JC(E)/TEND/02/2023-24 Date:21.02.2024
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Joint Commissioner, East Zone, BBMP invites tenders on behalf of the Additional District Election Officer BBMP (North) Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for below mentioned services.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Hiring of Vehicles along with Driver on Monthly Rental basis for 7 AC under Jurisdiction of ADEO BBMP (North) for Lok sabha General Election 2024. **Approx Amount Put to Tender ₹.145.85 Lakhs EMD: 218775/-**
2.	Supply of Videographer & Video Camera 7 AC under Jurisdiction of ADEO BBMP (North) for Lok Sabha General Election 2024. **Approx Amount Put to Tender ₹.101.75 Lakhs EMD: 152625/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **01.03.2024, 4:00** pm (2) Pre bid meeting will be held on **27.02.2024** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders is **01.03.2024** at **4:30** pm (4) Technical Bid opening date **02.03.2024** at **4:30** pm.(5) Financial Bid opening date After Technical Bid Approval.
Sd/- Joint Commissioner, East Zone

SWAMI VIVEKANAND NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF REHABILITATION TRAINING AND RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)
(MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT, GOVT. OF INDIA)
OLATPUR, P.O.-BAIROI, DIST-CUTTACK-754010, ODISHA
Ref. No.: AD 6B 02/02/2024 **Date: 20.02.2024**
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the following consultant post for Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (CRCSRE), Guwahati, Assam under the administrative control of SVNIRTAR, Cuttack as per details given below:-

1.	**Assistant Professor (Audiology)**	No. of post – 01 (For CRCSRE, Guwahati) Age – 56 years
	Consolidated Remuneration	Rs.75,000/- per month
	Essential qualification & experience	1. MASLP/M.Sc. in Speech Language Pathology/ M.Sc. in Audiology or Equivalent. 2. **Experience:** Minimum 2 years teaching/ clinical/ research experience. 3. Valid RCI Registration **Desirable:** 1. Ph.D in the core areas 2. Publications.
	Duration	Initial period of 1 (one) year and extendable up to 3 years.
	Date, Time and Venue of the Interview	04.03.2024 at 02:00 PM Reporting Time 09:30 AM **Venue of the interview:** Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (CRCSRE), Guwahati Guwahati Medical College Hospital Campus, Hostel Road, Bhangagarh, Guwahati -781032 (Assam).

The aspiring applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria in all respect may appear the interview as per the above scheduled date, time and venue along with completed applications as per prescribed proforma which can be downloaded from the SVNIRTAR, Cuttack official Website i.e. **https://svnirtar.nic.in** and **https://crcguwahati.com**
Sd/- Director

INBRIEF

Maratha activist issues fresh ultimatum to Shinde govt.

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil issued a fresh ultimatum on Wednesday to the Eknath Shinde-led 'Mahayuti' government, demanding it implement within two days the draft notification pertaining to blood relatives of those Marathas for whom Kunbi OBC records had been found, failing which the Maratha community would stage road blockades across the State from February 24. Speaking at his village in Jalna district, the activist, who is unhappy with the 10% reservation Bill for the Maratha community (in education and government jobs) passed by the Maharashtra Legislature on Tuesday, unveiled a series of 'agitation measures' to crank up the pressure on the Shinde government.

CAs from Canada, U.K. may be allowed to practise in India

Chartered accountants from the U.K. and Canada might be allowed to practise in India on a reciprocal basis, with the apex body ICAI making the proposal to the government. ICAI president Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, on Wednesday, said the proposal will be implemented strictly on the reciprocal basis that chartered accountants (CAs) from India will also be allowed to practise in the U.K. and Canada. It will be the first time that overseas CAs will be allowed to practise in India. The proposal is part of India's ongoing negotiations for Free Trade Agreements with the U.K. and Canada. Mr. Agarwal said that a similar arrangement is being looked with Australia. PTI

'India is facing a bully in a very determined fashion'

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane acknowledges intelligence support from the U.S. to counter 2020 stand-off with China in Ladakh; lays stress on interoperability to meet common threats

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Stating that the possibility that India "may encounter" a similar situation as the 2020 stand-off with China is "keeping us active all the time", Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane said on Wednesday that "we are standing against a bully in a very determined fashion".

Acknowledging the quick intelligence support from the U.S., he said the "strong resolve that we support each other in the face of a common threat is going to be of critical importance to us".

"India is giving a face-off to our (northern) neighbour in almost all the fronts we have with them. Wherever there is a mountain pass, we are stationed there to face the eventuality. Wherever there is a road, we have to be ready there. So that way we are there, we are standing against a bully in a very determined fashion. And we expect that our friend, the U.S., will be there with us in case we need their support," Mr. Aramane said. He was speaking at the second India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) summit along with U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander Admiral John Aquilino.

Giridhar Aramane speaking at the INDUS X session, along with U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander Admiral John Aquilino. DINAKAR PERI

"It's a must for us, we have to do it whether we can or we can't, we have to do that. We greatly appreciate the support and the resolve from our friends in supporting us in such an event, basically the information, intelligence and any support by way of equipment will be of great use to us," Mr. Aramane said.

Talking of the 2020 stand-off in eastern Ladakh, he said the one thing that helped India very quickly was the "intelligence, the situation awareness, which the U.S. equipment and the U.S. government could help us with".

In this regard, Mr. Aramane said India has utilised intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities in recent conflicts on the northern borders.

To address the common threats, interoperability was very important, he stressed, a point also reiterated by Admiral Aqualino.

"The Indo-Pacific, especially in the Indian Ocean Region, where we have an emerging threat from an emerging power... it is essential that we have greater collaboration in underwater domain awareness. It's going to be crucial to ensure that this part of the region will remain safe and secure for trade, commerce and prosperity," the Defence Secretary stated.

Information sharing

In his remarks, Admiral Aqualino noted that despite having problems with its economy, China was not diverting any money from defence. He stressed information exchange and interoperability in facing the challenge from China.

Two defence innovation challenges related to the maritime domain were launched under INDUS-X last year – underwater communications for the Indian Navy and oil spill detection for the Coast Guard.

The winners for the two challenges were announced at the summit. For the undersea communication challenge, the winners were AlKairos, Airbotix, and Sea Gal Technologies. The winners for the oil spill detection challenge were SAR Space Pvt Ltd. and Zeus Numerix Pvt Ltd.; and Pixxel Space along with PIERSIGHT.

India, China hold 21st round of military talks to resolve stand-off

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

There was no breakthrough, but the two sides agreed to maintain peace and tranquillity

India and China held the 21st round of Corps Commander talks, which failed to make any progress in further disengagement towards ending the stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

The External Affairs Ministry, in a statement, on Wednesday said that building on the previous rounds of talks seeking "complete disengagement" in the remaining areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, both sides "shared their perspectives" in the talks held in a "friendly and cordial atmosphere".

"The 21st round of India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting was held at Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on February 19. The discussions built on the previous rounds, seeking complete disengagement in the remaining areas along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh as an essential basis for restoration of peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas," the Ministry said.

The two sides shared their perspectives on this issue in the talks held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, the Ministry said noting that the two sides agreed to maintain communication on the way ahead through the relevant military and diplomatic mechanisms.

"They also committed to maintain peace and tranquillity on the ground in the border areas in the interim," the statement added.

Speaking of the situation on the northern borders with China, Army chief General Manoj Pande said last month that the situation was "stable but sensitive". "We continue to talk to find a solution to address the balance issues between the two sides. Operational preparedness is very high, and deployment is both robust and balanced," he said.

After the beginning of the stand-off in eastern Ladakh in April 2020, India and China had forward deployed thousands of troops along the LAC in the area who largely continue to remain deployed with the disengagement and de-escalation still incomplete. Both sides have over 50,000 troops deployed in the area.

Centre allocates ₹20 crore to bail out poor prisoners

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The initiative is part of the Centre's priority in 'reaching the last mile: no one to be left behind'

The Union government has allocated an annual fund of ₹20 crore to bail out poor prisoners languishing in prisons across the country due to financial constraints.

The Home Ministry has urged heads of prisons of all States and Union Territories to utilise the funds to provide relief to poor prisoners, who are either unable to pay the fine imposed on them or are unable to secure bail due to financial constraints.

In a communication, the Ministry said the initiative was part of the Centre's priority in "reaching the last mile: no one to be left behind" under which the "Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme" was launched in May last.

"Many such prisoners are socially disadvantaged or belong to low-income groups. It is expected that providing financial aid to such poor prisoners may help them in paying their outstanding amount of fine or in securing bail, within the ambit of provisions of law, and they will be able to come out of jail and join the mainstream as a responsible citizen of the country," the Ministry said.

The Home Minister had written to the Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories soon after the scheme was launched and requested them to take full advantage of the initiative. Guidelines for the fund utilisation and a standard operating procedure was also rolled out for the purpose of implementing the scheme. "It was emphasised that this scheme will go a long way in not only mitigating the problems faced by poor prisoners but also help in solving the problem of overcrowding in prisons."

The States and the Union Territories were told to constitute an "Empowered Committee" at the district level and an "Oversight Committee" at the headquarter level for identifying prisoners. However, many States were yet to provide a confirmation on the constitution of the committees. Urging the authorities concerned to take urgent steps to complete the activity in a time-bound manner, the Ministry said the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was appointed as the Central Nodal Agency for implementing the scheme.

Ebullient voice of a harmonious India falls silent

Anuj Kumar

The radio lost its spirited friend as Ameen Sayani, the ebullient voice of a harmonious India, passed away on Tuesday at 91. The iconic radio presenter became a household name in the early 1950s with 'Binaca Geetmala' where he introduced popular Hindi film songs to a young, liberated India with his inimitable voice modulation, flowery language, and engaging style. Listeners switched on for film songs but stayed tuned because of Sayani's spell.

Breaking away from the starched traditions of broadcasting, Sayani sounded spontaneous and spoke the language of the common Indian. His popularity refused to diminish even when television nudged radio out of living rooms or when the strings of 'Geetmala' could not be woven by one music company or for that matter when broadcasting was reduced to narrowcasting with the advent of FM stations.

Born to noted Gandhian and literacy activist Kulsum Sayani and physician Jan Mohammad Sayani, the young Sayani grew up in Mumbai in a family devoted to the freedom movement. His mother brought out the popular newspaper *Rahber* in the 1940s that steered clear of Sanskritised Hindi and Persianised Urdu to have a dialogue with its readers in Hindustani. This inclusive approach towards language and culture echoed in Sayani's voice when he picked up the microphone for Radio Ceylon at the insistence of his elder brother and eminent broadcaster Hamid Sayani.

'Binaca Geetmala', one of the most abiding partnerships of a sponsor and a product, emerged on Radio Ceylon after the All India Radio banned commercial Hindi film songs for allegedly corrupting young

AMEEN SAYANI (1932-2024)

Indians. Those were the days when Hindi film stars and playback singers remained in a self-defined orbit and composers and lyricists did not find much space in the glossies. Laced with wit and self-deprecatory humour, Sayani brought them closer to their fans with interviews and tidbits on their craft and relationships in between songs.

With its pan-Asian reach that later spread up to East Africa, 'Geetmala' took Hindi film songs beyond geographical boundaries to non-Hindi speakers. At its peak, the programme garnered nine to 12 crore listeners and played a significant role in integrating a multi-lingual country. Every home has a story of how their parents sat next to the radio with their list of probables that would top the 'Geetmala' charts.

Exuberant style

A product of syncretic ethos, Sayani used a seamless blend of Hindi and Urdu that synchronised with the ethos of the Bombay film industry. Moreover, his exuberant style matched the tonality of a young India that had just emerged out of the yoke of colonial rule and was in no mood to be bound by musty mores. Once rejected by the AIR for his Gujarati accent, the behemoth had to eventually embrace 'Geetmala' and it had had a glorious run on Vividh Bharati.

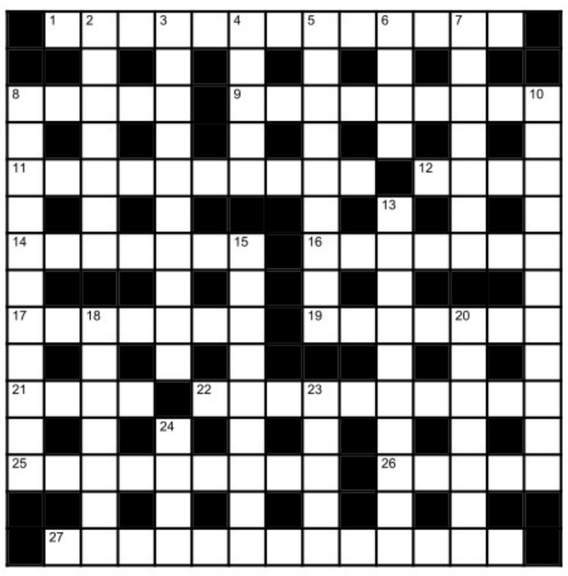
Filmmakers came up with offers for acting but Sayani only accepted those roles where he was to play a presenter. Sayani compered the concert tours of Kishore Kumar and Amitabh Bachchan in North America and was a regular host for Miss India pageants. Over the years as the equipment improved and the audience became attuned to visual medium, Sayani toned down the punch in his voice to make it sound more matter-of-fact but his breezy style remained a benchmark for radio jockeys.

TH CROSSWORD + 14104

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1/24 What demolition workers might do to make audience applaud enthusiastically (5,3,5,4)
8 Allow member to enter passage into mine (5)
9 Incessant drinking - starting to become aloof (9)
11 Money gone, stolen outside West Hollywood (10)
12 Declining number of bees in capital of Polynesian country (4)
14 Fellow entertaining a crowd endlessly in Mexican city (7)
16 Gap in combustible rock without carbon is shaped like an egg (7)
17 One making allegations about rebellious cocaine addict (7)
19 Media magnate is often defending Republican party (7)
21 Debonair billionaire touring revolutionary city in Middle East (4)
22 Try sweets perhaps after ordinary seafood dish (6,4)
25 Analysis of real-time info finally becoming better (9)
26 CPR, oxygen saves delegate (5)
27 Pay for stable over exotic isle in due course (2,4,7)

Down

2 Old chap abducted by revolting character in European country (7)
3 Lowest possible rent, home's close to market (10)
4 Dump husband, press for custody (5)
5 Bowl more craftily, allowing no space (5,4)
6 Has drinks, loses head (4)
7 Skidded and hurtled over edge (7)
8 Visual problem in a spot with murky mist (11)
10 Girl entertaining old wealthy rogue to have sex (2,3,3,3)
13 Very mean reviews in press primarily show envious reaction (4,6)
15 They are used by graffiti artists in bridges to cover beam with bit of colour (5,4)
18 Piece of armour of king in fancy closet (7)
20 Come first, getting gold in the open air (7)
23 Gist of article on case of malpractice (5)
24 See 1 Across

SUDOKU

3		4	8	6	5	9		7
		8						4
					2		3	
	7			5	4			1
				9				
4			6	8			9	
	2		5					
8						5		
5		7	4	2	9	8		6

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

		G	E	N	E	R	A	T	I	O	N	G	A	P
		D		A		B		N		I		T		
U	N	I	T	S		O	R	G	A	N	S	T	O	P
R		T		T		M		R		E		R		A
B	L	O	W	B	Y	B	L	O	W		H	A	I	R
A		U		E				W		M		C		T
N	A	T	U	R	E	S		I	N	E	P	T	L	Y
L				L		I		N		T				A
E	D	A	T	I	N	G		G	R	E	I	S	E	N
G		C		N		N				O		T		I
E	A	C	H		C	O	N	S	O	R	T	I	U	M
N		O		R		R		Y		I		F		A
D	O	U	G	H	T	I	E	R		T	R	A	I	L
		N		E		N		I		I		D		
		S	T	E	A	L	A	M	A	R	C	H	O	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	9	8	4	3	6	5	2
6	8	5	2	1	9	3	4	7
4	3	2	6	5	7	1	9	8
2	4	8	1	9	6	7	3	5
5	9	3	7	2	8	4	6	1
7	1	6	5	3	4	2	8	9
9	6	7	4	8	1	5	2	3
3	5	1	9	6	2	8	7	4
8	2	4	3	7	5	9	1	6

FAITH

Bhakti towards Srinivasa

Entrenched in the love of Lord Vishnu, the 12 Azhwars (Vaishnavite saints) experienced bhakti on a higher plane and yet, through their works, translated the mysticism in an easy-to-understand manner for the ordinary devotee. Among them Kulasekhara Azhwar's desire to be an ordinary servitor to Perumal in Tirumalai is unparalleled, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh in a discourse.

An ardent devotee of Rama, with whom he shared his birth star Punarpoosam, Kulasekhara Perumal was born in a royal family, but he sought only the kingdom of bhaktas, spending all his time and resources in serving the Bhagavatas. He composed Perumal Tirumozhi, comprising 105 hymns.

His greatest desire was to live in the seven hills and serve the deity. Accordingly, he prayed to Srinivasa to make him a crane so that he could remain in the temple tank. The Lord playfully responds saying, "A crane will fly away.. how then will you serve Me?" The Azhwar then makes a series of wishes. In all of these, the Lord finds some weakness.

The Azhwar then says, "*Padiyai kidandhu un pavala vai kanbene*" (be a doorstep at the entrance to your sanctum and gaze upon you), which Lord Srinivasa is happy to grant.

WARSAW

Poland warns farmers' slogans 'possibly' influenced by Russia

REUTERS

Poland on Wednesday denounced pro-Putin slogans at farmers' protests there, saying they were "possibly" influenced by Russia. During the protests against competition from imports of cheaper Ukrainian products, farmers had unfurled a banner saying "Putin, get Ukraine, Brussels and our government in order". AFP

TAIPEI

Lai backs 'firm' coast guard posture after China boat incident

AFP

Taiwan's President-elect Lai Ching-te on Wednesday said he supports "firm law enforcement" by the island's coast guard but hopes to avoid a "similar situation" after two Chinese nationals died in a boat incident. The Chinese boat carrying four people capsized last week while pursued by the Taiwanese coast guard. AFP

KABUL

Media committing 'major sin' by taking pictures: Afghan Taliban

REUTERS

A Taliban official said presspersons were committing "a major sin" by taking pictures, Afghan media reported on Wednesday. Television and pictures of living things were banned under the previous Taliban rule from 1996 to 2001, but a similar edict has so far not been imposed since authorities took back power in 2021. AFP

BRUSSELS

EU targets Chinese firms, N. Korea in new Ukraine war sanctions

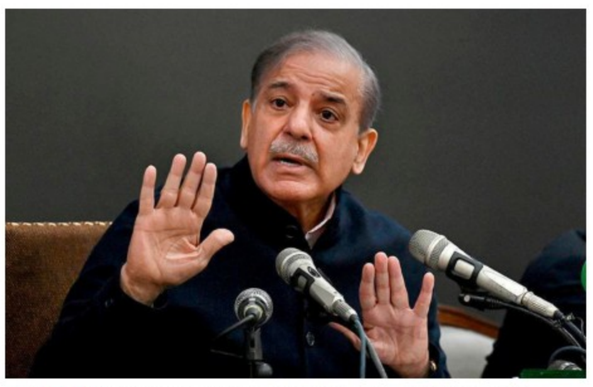
ISTOCKPHOTO

The EU on Wednesday agreed to ban exports to three mainland Chinese firms and blacklist North Korea's Defence Minister in new sanctions for the second anniversary of Russia's war on Ukraine, officials said. The firms were accused of involvement in supplying sensitive military technology to Russia. AFP

Shehbaz to be PM as PML-N, PPP agree on coalition pact

As part of the power-sharing agreement, Asif Ali Zardari would be the next President; Imran Khan's PTI, which has been left out of the pact, slams the coalition parties 'mandate thieves'

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD



New chair: Shehbaz Sharif, leader of the PML-N party, speaks during a press conference in Lahore. AFP

Pakistan's two dynastic parties have reached a power-sharing agreement that will return Shehbaz Sharif to the premiership, leaving out politicians loyal to jailed former leader Imran Khan despite them winning the most seats in this month's vote.

The Army-backed Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) said they had settled days of negotiations on securing a majority to form a coalition government that will also include several smaller parties, after the February 8 polls returned no clear winner.

Candidates loyal to Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party won the most seats but were forced to stand as Independents following a sweeping crackdown on the party in the lead-up to the election, which was marred by allegations of vote rigging.

The proposed new government looks much the same as the shaky coalition that combined to oust Mr. Khan in a no-confidence vote in 2022.

Coalition government

The deal was announced at a late-night press conference in Islamabad, announcing Asif Ali Zardari, the husband of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, as President. "The Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz have attained the numbers and we will form a government," said PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the son of Zardari and Bhutto.

"We are hopeful that Shehbaz Sharif will soon become the Prime Minister of the country and the whole of Pakistan should pray that the government should be successful."

Mr. Bhutto Zardari, who was Foreign Minister under Mr. Sharif in the last government, which dissolved in August ahead of elections, said ministerial portfolios had been agreed and would be announced in the coming days. The National Assembly must convene by February 29, when the coalition can be formally approved. The PTI lashed out against the agreement, reiterating its accusations of foul play. "The PML-N and the Peoples Party deserve some praise for their epic 30-year journey, from stealing taxpayers' money together to stealing an election together," the party said on X. It also referred to Sharif and Bhutto's parties as "mandate thieves".

The PML-N and the PPP formed an Opposition coalition in 2022 before seizing power from Mr. Khan, overseeing a period of massive inflation.

U.K. Labour rebellion averted as Parliament considers 'ceasefire' vote

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Keir Starmer

Leader of the U.K. Labour Party, Keir Starmer, narrowly avoided a rebellion from Labour MPs after the Speaker of the U.K. House of Commons, on Wednesday, controversially allowed a vote on a Labour amendment calling for an "immediate humanitarian ceasefire" in Gaza.

Labour's amendment was tabled in response to a Scottish National Party (SNP) motion on Wednesday afternoon that called for an "immediate ceasefire in Gaza and Israel". When the SNP last introduced a motion on the West Asia conflict, in November 2023, 56 Labour MPs, including eight frontbenchers, had quit the party to support the motion.

The Rishi Sunak government has tabled its own amendment to the motion as well, calling for an "immediate humanitarian pause".

House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle was criticised by some for breaking with precedent as he allowed both the Labour and government amendments to be voted on in addition to the underlying motion from the SNP. This outcome gave dissatisfied Labour MPs from having to choose between the government and SNP versions, as would have usually been the case. Mr. Hoyle said he wanted the House to consider "the widest possible range of options".

Mr. Starmer has faced months of pressure to take a firmer position on Israel's actions and Labour's amendment calling for an "immediate humanitarian ceasefire" marks a shift in the party's official position.

29,000 killed

With more than 29,000 Palestinians already killed, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, Israel has threatened to expand operations and undertake a ground invasion of the city of Rafah, unless hostages are returned. The Labour amendment says an offensive in Rafah must not take place as it "risks catastrophic humanitarian consequences".

The SNP had earlier welcomed what it had called a "long overdue U-turn" by Labour leader Keir Starmer whose party is expected to win the general elections later this year.

"It's telling that it took the SNP to insert a backbone into the Labour party and act as Westminster's conscience on this conflict," SNP parliamentary leader Stephen Flynn said in a statement. Labour introduced its amendment to address what its shadow Foreign Secretary David Lammy called "unbalanced" language in the SNP amendment.

Hunger grips Gaza as talks of truce resume in Cairo

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Bleak future: Displaced Palestinian children gather to receive food at a government school in Rafah. AFP

Heavy fighting rocked besieged Gaza on Wednesday as aid agencies warned of looming famine, a day after a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire was blocked by a U.S. veto.

Washington, which argued the resolution would have imperilled ongoing efforts to free hostages, sent top White House official Brett McGurk to Cairo for renewed talks involving mediators and Hamas.

Global concern has spiralled over the high civilian death toll and dire humanitarian crisis in the war sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack against Israel.

Combat and chaos again stalled the sporadic aid deliveries for desperate civilians in Gaza, where the UN has warned the population of 2.4 million is on the brink of famine and could face an "explosion" of child deaths.

The UN World Food Programme said it was forced to halt aid deliveries in north Gaza because of "complete chaos and violence" after a truck convoy encountered gunfire and was ransacked by looters.

Dire situation

More Israeli strikes pounded Gaza, leaving 103 people dead during the night, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-run territory, which put the overall death toll at 29,313.

Aid groups warn a ground offensive could turn Rafah into a "graveyard" and the United States has said the vast numbers of displaced civilians must first be moved out of harm's way.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted the Army will keep fighting until it has destroyed Hamas and freed the remaining 130 hostages, around 30 of whom are feared dead.

Navalny's death: jailed figures point to Putin

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Jailed Russian Opposition figures have been reacting to the death of Alexei Navalny from their prison cells this week, with his former regional aide saying on Wednesday that she was in "mourning".

Navalny died at his Arctic prison last Friday. His widow Yulia Navalnaya has since accused President Vladimir Putin of killing him, while his mother has been unable to see his body.

A day earlier, Vladimir Kara-Murza, who is serving a 25-year sentence, said he was sure Mr. Putin was behind Navalny's death.

Ilya Yashin, an Opposition figure serving an eight-and-a-half-year sentence for denouncing the Ukraine offensive, also said he had "no doubt" that Navalny was killed on Mr. Putin's orders.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

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Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for receipt of tender	Date & time for opening of tender
1	(South-East-2)	BWSSB/EESE-2/TO/PB / 3221/2023-24 Date: 20.02.2024	Rs. 58,02,702.24 / Rs. 1,36,950/-	01.03.2024 up to 4.00 pm	04.03.2024 after 3.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-East-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri-O&M), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

2	(Kaveri) O&M-2	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/2576/2023-24 Date: 17.02.2024	Rs. 95.27 Lakhs / Rs. 1,91,000/-	28.02.2024 up to 4.00 pm	29.02.2024 after 4.00 pm
3	(Kaveri) O&M-4	BWSSB/EEK(O&M)-4/ PB/541/2023-24 Date: 21.02.2024	Rs. 7,54,610/- / Rs. 22,500/-	29.02.2024 up to 4.00 pm	01.03.2024 at 4.05 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)-2

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)-4

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

4	South-1	BWSSB/EES-1/TO/ AE/3105/2023-24 Date: 16.02.2024 CALL-2	Rs. 56,99,306/- / Rs. 1,34,600/-	13.03.2024 up to 4.00 pm	15.03.2024 after 3.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South)-1

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

5	(WWM-N) K&T	BWSSB/EWKT-N/PB/ 1355/2023-24 Dated : 20.02.2024	Rs. 71.66 Lakhs / Rs. 1.691 Lakhs	29.02.2024 up to 4.00 pm	01.03.2024 at 4.05 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (WWM-N) K&T

The details regarding participation in the tendering process and tender can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/ 3777/AKAR/2023-24

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Smt. Nisha Khan @ Nisha Kumari, D/o Sri. Ved Prakash, W/o. Sri. Bhaskar Dev Yadav, aged about 40 years, Presently R/at:C-001, Sovereign, Shanthinivasa, Kristal Campus, Sarjapura Road, Bangalore-562125, Karnataka. I have changed my name from Nisha Khan @ Nisha Kumari to Nisha Yadav Vide Affidavit Dated: 19/02/2024 sworn to before S.I.Balaguru, Advocate & Notary at Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I RAVINA S R/o 2nd Main Rd, 2nd Flr, R.K.Street, Seshadripuram, Blore–20 have changed my name to RAVINA A SHAH for all future purposes.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. SANDT_WAT_24_S_ZONAL_RGDA
NAME OF WORK : SIGNAL ZONAL WORK UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SSE/SIG/RAYAGADA (RGDA) IN WALTAIR DIVISON.
Advertised Value : ₹ 38,99,962/-,
EMD : ₹ 78,000/-, Period of Completion : 12 Months.
Bidding Start Date : 23.02.2024
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 08.03.2024.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website http://www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divl. Signal & Telecom Engineer, Waltair
PR-1111/O/23-24

Government of Karnataka
DIRECTORATE OF ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF CITIZEN SERVICES (EDCS) DPAR (e-Governance)
No 3, Level 4, Embassy Icon Building, Infantry Road, Bangalore-560001
Ph: 080-22221935,080-22224577.

No: DPAREGOV/2023-24/SE0020/CALL-2 Dated: 21.02.2024

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Directorate of EDCS has invited tenders for procurement of human resources on outsourcing basis for Mobile One, Janasevaka and Karnataka One projects. Tender documents shall be uploaded through e-procurement portal before **10.01** AM on **28.02.2024.** Tender conditions and details can be had from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

(1) Tender Notification Date **: 20.02.2024. (2)** Last date and time for submission of tender : **28.02.2024. 10.01 AM. (3)** Date and time of opening of technical bid : **29.02.2024. 10.02 AM. (4)** Place of opening of technical bid : **EDCS Directorate. (5)** Date and time of opening of financial bid : **29.02.2024. 4.00 PM. (6)** Approximate amout of tender : **Rs. 4.8 Crore (Yearly). (7)** EMD amount : **Rs.11,60,000/-. (8)** Name of the officer, address and phone No. to be contacted : **Director, Directorate of Electronic Delivery of Citizen Services (EDCS) No.03, Level 4 Embassy Icon, Infantry Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560001.Ph: 080-22221935, 080-22224577, E-mail : dir-edcs@karnataka.gov.in**

Other details can be obtained from the website of Directorate of EDCS: **https://edcs.karnataka.gov.in** and e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Director, Directorate of (EDCS)

DIPR/CP/3774/Zen/2023-24

INNOVATE KARNATAKA · K-tech

SHORT TERM E-TENDER SELECTION OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT AUDIT FIRMS

Notification No.: ITBTST/2023-24/SE0006 Date : 21.02.2024

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) intends to appoint a Audit Firm to undertake Internal Audit Service of KITS. In this regard, KITS invites qualified and experienced Chartered Accountant audit firms to participate in a Short-Term E-Tender.

Interested tenderers are requested to register in the e-procurement platform well in advance.

The deadline for submission of the proposal through e-tender mode is on or before 29.02.2024 by 5.00 p.m.

For detailed information and tender documents, visit our official website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Managing Director
KITS

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka
BMTC Central Offices Building, TTMC 'B' Block, 4th Floor, Shanthinagar, KH Road, Bangalore-560027. India
Phone : 080-2223-1006 / 8, E-mail: kitsgok@karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/3787/AKAR/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK.
AT/PO - NAYABAZAR, DIST-CUTTACK - 753004, Tel No. 0671-2443399, Email Id - serw_ctc@yahoo.com

1st corrigendum to Bid Identification NO. Tender Online RWC 04/24 vide T.O. It. No.340 dt. 29.01.2024

Letter No. 672 / Date:- 13.02.24

The Tender invited in the above Tender Call Notice No - Tender Online RWC 04/24 invited by the Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack vide letter no. 340, dt. 29.01.2024 is hereby rescheduled for the work "Construction of H.L. Bridge over river Gobari on Mahanga Bagasarapur road connecting to Chainpal via Chadheiputia and Malihata road under Biju Setu Yojana in the District of Cuttack for the year 2018-19 at sl no. 4 of Annexure (i) Clause no -06 of NIT is modified as below:-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding				Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification		Date & Time of opening of tender			
		From		To				Technical Bid		Financial Bid	
1	2	3		4		5		6		7	
		Previously fixed on	Presently Modified to	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified to	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified to	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified to	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified to
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack	Tender Online RWC-04/24	02.02.2024 at 11.30 A.M.	17.02.2024 At 11.30 A.M.	16.02.2024 to 5.00 P.M.	02.03.2024 to 5.00 P.M.	16.02.2024 up to 02.00 P.M.	02.03.2024 up to 2.00 P.M.	17.02.2024 At 11.30 A.M.	04.02.2024 at 11.30 A.M.	Will be intimated later on	Will be intimated later on

All other terms & conditions remain unaltered.
O-2561 :

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.
OIPR-25097/11/0050/2324

INBRIEF

DRI starts probe at Maruti over incorrect import code

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Wednesday said the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had initiated an inquiry against it over incorrect HSN (Harmonised System of Nomenclature) code of an imported component. As per DRI, the 'Shaft Assy Propeller' is imported under incorrect HSN code as per explanatory notes of World Customs Organisation. The company will file a suitable reply to DRI, MSI said, adding there was no major financial or operational impact. PTI

Dvara KGFS raises $27 mn in debt to bolster growth plans

Dvara KGFS said it had raised $27 million in debt funds to augment liquidity and accelerate growth plans. The Chennai-based rural fintech firm said in a statement that it had secured $20 million in the form of external commercial borrowings (ECB) from a Dutch entrepreneurial development bank and $7 million from a leading impact investment advisory company. Dvara KGFS also announced that it had crossed the ₹2,000-crore mark in Assets Under Management.

Manali Petro's U.K. subsidiary PennWhite forms Indian unit

Manali Petrochemicals Ltd.'s (MPL) overseas step-down subsidiary PennWhite Ltd. announced the formation of a subsidiary in India to address the growing needs of the Indian market for premium foam control solutions. The Indian subsidiary, PennWhite India Pvt. Ltd., was formed on February 8. U.K.-based PennWhite is currently assessing the viability of establishing a manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu to enable local manufacture of selected products, it said.

Illegal lending apps on FSDC radar

Regulators discuss fresh measures to curb the further spread of harmful unauthorised lending through online apps; they reiterate need for uniform KYC norms so that KYC records can provide customers 'inter-usability' across the financial sector

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Fresh measures to curb unauthorised online lending apps' operations could be on the anvil, following deliberations on the issue at the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday.

The FSDC, which has all financial sector regulators on board including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), also discussed issues related to macro financial stability and the country's preparedness to deal with any challenges that may come up.

It emphasised the need for "constant vigil and proactive efforts" to detect emerging financial stability risks in the current domestic and global macro-financial situation.

Apart from taking necessary measures to maintain the resilience of the financial sector, the FSDC members also decided to strengthen inter-regulatory coordination to further develop the financial sector so that it continues to provide the requisite financial resources for inclusive economic growth.

'Curb further spread'

Arresting "the harmful effects of unauthorised lending through online apps and measures to curb their further spread" figured prominently in the discussions of the FSDC.

The Council also made a reiteration of the push for regulators to simplify and digitise the KYC (Know Your Customer) process and adopt uniform KYC norms so that those KYC records can provide customers 'inter-usability' across the financial sector.

Importantly, apart from the chiefs of various financial sector regulators and top finance ministry officials, the FSDC meeting was also attended by the Secretary to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology S. Krishnan. The Ministry is critical to the process of delisting lending apps that are not authorised by the RBI.

Tougher rules

Regulators under the FSDC decide to strengthen inter-regulatory coordination to develop the financial sector

- FSDC also discusses issues related to macro financial stability and preparedness to deal with challenges
- The Council has all financial sector regulators in the country on board including the Reserve Bank of India
- The meet also included a member from the IT ministry, which is critical to the process of delisting lending apps

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	72,623	-0.59
US Dollar	82.96	0.01
Gold	62,850	0.23
Brent oil	82.65	0.52

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3223.20	-5.40
Adani Ports	1291.00	-9.50
Apollo Hosp	6760.15	0.70
Asian Paints	3001.80	-9.85
Axis Bank	1084.20	-4.40
Bajaj Auto	8232.25	-62.95
Bajaj Finserv	1586.95	-15.90
Bajaj Finance	6688.80	-74.80
Bharti Airtel	1139.90	-4.05
BPCL	633.20	-24.40
Britannia Ind	4923.00	1.85
Cipla	1447.30	-4.35
Coal India	432.95	-13.55
Divis Lab	3649.10	-63.65
Dr Reddys Lab	6349.15	-26.85
Eicher Motors	3836.35	8.25
Grasim Ind	2194.00	1.75
HCL Tech	1636.30	-26.75
HDFC Bank	1439.15	-15.15
HDFC Life	577.45	-10.50
Hero MotoCorp	4534.85	-128.50
Hindalco	511.80	0.20
Hind Unilever	2407.10	3.00
ICICI Bank	1051.95	3.20
IndusInd Bank	1517.25	13.05
Infosys	1655.55	-29.70
ITC	403.35	-2.75
JSW Steel	828.25	7.05
Kotak Bank	1746.10	-16.40
L&T	3296.40	-60.35
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5420.10	-84.25
M&M	1859.65	6.00
Maruti Suzuki	11465.85	19.40
NestleIndia	2543.60	4.20
NTPC	336.10	-9.60
ONGC	272.95	-3.65
PowerGrid Corp	280.10	-7.80
Reliance Ind	2935.40	-6.65
SBI Life	1501.70	-11.85
State Bank	771.50	11.40
Sun Pharma	1543.40	4.70
TataConsumerProduct	1160.75	6.35
Tata Motors	921.05	-5.30
Tata Steel	143.90	2.85
TCS	3991.50	-39.15
Tech Mahindra	1296.60	-23.95
Titan	3656.35	-30.35
UltraTech Cement	9968.40	-10.55
UPL	492.15	-5.90
Wipro	521.40	-10.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.77	83.09
Euro	89.38	89.73
British Pound	104.41	104.82
Japanese Yen (100)	55.17	55.38
Chinese Yuan	11.51	11.56
Swiss Franc	93.99	94.37
Singapore Dollar	61.58	61.83
Canadian Dollar	61.20	61.46
Malaysian Ringitt	17.26	17.34
Australian Dollar	54.27	54.48

Source:Indian Bank

GDP, GVA growth eased to 6% in Q3, estimates ICRA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's real GDP growth likely slowed to 6% in the third quarter, from 7.6% in Q2, rating firm ICRA said on Wednesday, citing the uneven monsoon, slowing government capex and flagging momentum in some indicators, including industrial activity.

The National Statistical Office, which has estimated GDP growth for 2023-24 at 7.3%, will release its estimates for Q3 at the end of this month. ICRA also expects the Gross Value Added (GVA) to ease to 6%, from 7.4% in Q2, with the expansion in agriculture

GVA pegged at 0.5% and industrial GVA growth seen easing to 8.8%, from 13.2% in the preceding quarter.

The deterioration in Q3 industrial growth is partly attributable to an adverse base effect and a deceleration in volume expansion, the rating firm said. Additionally, a mild 0.2% contraction in total spending by the Centre and 25 States last quarter, after an 18.3% rise in Q2 is expected to have impacted GVA growth in the period.

"Lower volume growth for the industrial sector, flagging momentum in certain indicators of investment activity, a slowdown in government expenditure and an uneven monsoon are expected to" have dampened GDP growth in Q3, said Aditi Nayar, chief economist and head of research at ICRA.

Services GVA growth, however, was projected to have improved to 6.5% in the October-December quarter, from 5.8% in Q2.

'DPIs to help add $1 trillion to India's economy by 2030'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Mature DPIs have generated a value of $31.8 billion, equivalent to 0.9% of India's GDP

Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs) are likely to help propel India towards a $1 trillion digital economy by 2030, helping it to become an $8 trillion economy, Nasscom-Arthur D. Little said in a report.

"By 2030, DPIs will significantly enhance citizens' efficiency and promote social as well as financial inclusion," the entities said in the report.

According to the report, mature DPIs such as Aadhaar, UPI, and FASTag which have witnessed exponential adoption by 2022 would in the next 7-8 years offer an opportunity for further scalability, reaching even the most remote population.

"Mature DPIs have generated a value of $31.8 billion, equivalent to 0.9% of India's GDP," said Brajesh Singh, President, Arthur D. Little India.

Ambuja Cement plans ₹1,000-crore plant in Jharkhand

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Adani Group's Ambuja Cements Ltd. (ACL) announced a ₹1,000 crore investment to establish a four million tonnes per annum (MTPA) cement grinding unit in Jharkhand's Godda district.

The project, planned to be close to Adani Power (Jharkhand) Ltd., is part of a comprehensive approach to disposing fly ash in an environmentally safe manner, contributing to a circular economy, the company said in a statement.

The unit will generate direct and indirect employment for more than 2,500 people and "achieve a significant milestone in our committment to... contributing to the socio-economic development of the region," ACL added. The company already operates two plants in Jharkhand with a combined capacity of six MTPA.

The unit will generate direct and indirect employment for 2,500 people. REUTERS

63 moons' Shah places next bet on cybersecurity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jignesh Shah, whose Financial Technologies now known as 63 moons Technologies Ltd. capitalised on providing technology solutions for commodities markets in the 1990s and 2000s, is now pivoting to offering cybersecurity solutions for individuals and businesses.

63 moons has engaged Yigal Unna, who headed the Israeli National Cyber Directorate between 2018 and 2022, in an advisory role.

The initiative relies on technology from global cybersecurity firms, with an app for individual users screening suspicious messages, webpages and calls.

SEBI said to detect ₹2,000 cr. diverted out of Zee's books

Reuters

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has made a preliminary finding that ₹2,000 crore ($240 million) has been diverted out of Zee Entertainment Enterprises' books, and Zee Group founders have been called in for questioning, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The amount was 10 times higher than investigators had initially estimated, said one of the sources.

Zee shares tumbled 14.8% on the BSE on Wednesday, adding to a steep share decline since its $10 billion merger with Sony Group was scrapped by the Japanese firm last month.

Zee says "reports and rumours pertaining to accounting issues in the Company are incorrect and false"

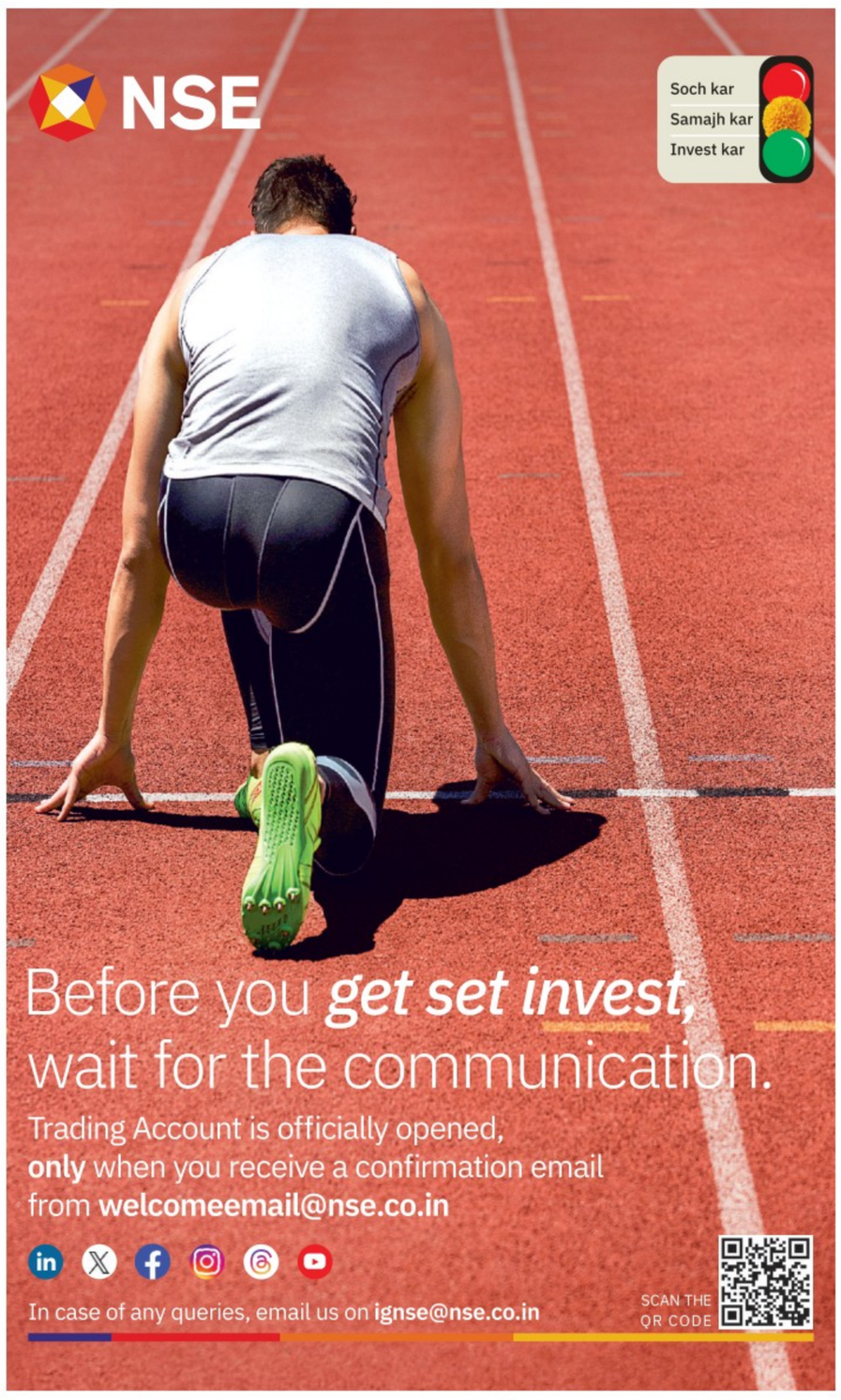
SEBI said last year that Zee Group's founders, former Chairman Subhash Chandra and his son current CEO Punit Goenka, were actively involved in diverting company funds to the group's other listed entities and firms related to its founding shareholders. Both men have denied any wrongdoing.

Zee said in a statement that "reports and rumours pertaining to accounting issues in the Company are incorrect and false".

Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India unveils Sustainability Garage

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India (MBRDI) said it had introduced 'Sustainability Garage', an initiative to promote innovation in sustainable mobility, in association with Prayoga Institute of Education Research. The CSR initiative is expected to serve as a hub for multidisciplinary research to develop eco-friendly materials with diverse applications.



'55% of banking frauds tied to third-party account takeovers'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Some 55% of all bank fraud cases reported in India are tied to third-party account takeovers that involve unauthorised individuals taking over someone else's bank account, email account, or social media profile without the account owner's permission, said Tel Aviv-based BioCatch, a firm that specialises in digital fraud detection.

Third-party account takeover fraud still represented a bigger slice in the fraud pie of the country than social engineering scams, BioCatch said in a report. In December 2023, BioCatch, from its massive store data, analyzed over 350 million possible vulnerability sessions.

Third-party takeovers involve unauthorised individuals taking over someone else's bank account

According to BioCatch, mules were a massively underreported plague in the banking industry and every device found to participate in mule activity in India logged into an average of 35 accounts each. Fraudsters were accessing Indian mule accounts from outside the country. BioCatch found more mule activity in Bhubaneswar (14%) than anywhere else in India.

BioCatch Director of Global Fraud Intelligence Tom Peacock said the prevalence of mule accounts potentially represented the most under-the-radar trend in the entire fraud space. "The mule accounts banks succeed in identifying almost certainly represent just the tip of the iceberg. Indian financial institutions must employ more robust security measures to both detect and then shut down these sprawling mule networks," Mr. Peacock cautioned.

'Clothing brands face wider competition'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Clothing and apparel brands in India today are facing new competition from several unexpected sources including resorts, holidays, airlines, luxury lifestyle brands, high-end cars and designer homes, observed Amitabh Suri, CEO, U.S Polo Association, India.

"The industry, especially after the pandemic, is witnessing competition from several quarters, in addition to the traditional competition we normally see between peers. Resorts, tour companies and lifestyle brands are there to compete with clothing brands and therefore customers' wallet share is getting divided," Mr. Suri told *The Hindu*.

Amitabh Suri

After the pandemic, most people who think, "Oh my mortality is on the corner" want to explore newer things in life, thereby spilling the wallet share for multiple things.

DIFFERENT VIEW

No issue in youngsters not being humble, Jaiswal is sensational: Gill

FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Rohit Sharma was guarded in his praise for Yashasvi Jaiswal, perhaps to keep the youngster grounded. Shubman Gill, though, had a slightly different take. "I don't think there is a problem with youngsters being not humble. If you don't have it [talent], then you will not be scoring. He is a sensational player," Gill said.

BIG JUMP

Jaiswal breaks into the top-15 in Test rankings for batters

K.R. DEEPAK

India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal on Wednesday broke into the top-20 of the ICC Test rankings, rising 14 spots to 15th in the batting charts. R. Ashwin climbed a rung to the second spot behind Jasprit Bumrah while Ravindra Jadeja and Ashwin continued to hold on to the top two positions in the all-rounders' rankings.

HUMDINGER

Afghanistan prevails in a thriller, Sri Lanka wins series 2-1

AFP

Rahmanullah Gurbaz (70) shone as Afghanistan pipped Sri Lanka by three runs in the third and final T20I match at Dambulla on Wednesday. Sri Lanka won the series 2-1. **The scores:** Afghanistan 209/5 in 20 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 70) bt Sri Lanka 206/6 in 20 overs (Pathum Nissanka 60 retd. hurt, Kamindu Mendis 65 n.o.).

STELLAR SHOW

Paltans overturn Yoddhas; Bulls down Steelers

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Puneri Paltan produced a stellar comeback as it overturned a 13-point deficit to beat U.P. Yoddhas 40-38 and finish at the top of the table in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 on Wednesday. U.P. Yoddhas' Gagana Gowda was the star of the evening with 16 raid points. Bengaluru Bulls beat Haryana Steelers 53-39.

Mumbai Indians will again be a force to reckon with

Harmanpreet's side, the defending champion, boasts of a world-class assembly line of all-rounders; the addition of quick guns Ismail and Amandeep makes the bowling department stronger

WPL COUNTDOWN

Mayank Chaudhary

From strategic buys at the auction to marauding its way to the inaugural Women's Premier League title, Mumbai Indians barely put a foot wrong last season.

Under an able and experienced leader in Harmanpreet Kaur, MI fielded an assembly line of all-rounders. From Hayley Matthews, Nat Sciver-Brunt and Amelia Kerr to Chloe Tryon and Pooja Vastrakar, this pool of versatile match-winners make this side a dangerous opposition.

MI's auction picks ahead of the 2024 season sought to build on these positives, the most exciting of those being the acquisition of South African quick Shabnim Ismail for ₹1.20 crore.

Batting was a strong suit last season with Matthews and Sciver-Brunt often blowing opponents away. The side will want its top-order to boss the opponents around this time too.

Saika Ishaque had a mixed bag of an induction into international cricket and will hope to use the time working under veteran Jhulan Goswami to fine-tune the chinks in her game.

Team effort: MI will wants its aggressive starts with the bat to continue this year as well. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mumbai Indians' fixtures

AT BENGALURU
Feb. 23: vs Delhi Capitals
Feb. 25: Gujarat Giants
Feb. 28: UP Warriorz
March 2: Royal Challengers
AT NEW DELHI
March 5: Delhi Capitals
March 7: UP Warriorz
March 9: Gujarat Giants
March 12: Royal Challengers

The biggest issue facing this franchise is the question of who to leave out of the playing XI.

While Sciver-Brunt and Matthews walk into the team any day, the management will have to juggle between Ismail, Tryon, Kerr and Wong, of whom the last two finished as the third and fourth best wicket-takers, with 15 each, last year.

Among Indians, while youngsters Saika and Amandeep will cover the the team's spin requirements, with Harmanpreet also a handy addition to that arsenal, it is the batting form of home talent that MI will keep tabs on.

With the league moving from Mumbai to Bengaluru and Delhi, it remains to be seen if MI can defend its title away from home.

Star attraction

Hayley Matthews is a complete package: an attacking opener, a useful bowler and an outstanding fielder

She finished season one as the joint-highest wicket-taker (16 scalps) and the fifth-highest run-getter (271)

Her recent international exploits means she is primed to deliver big this season too

The squad:

Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Amanjot Kaur, Amelia Kerr, Chloe Tryon, Hayley Matthews, Humaira Kazi, Issy Wong, Jintimani Kalita, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Pooja Vastrakar, Priyanka Bala, Saika Ishaque, Yastika Bhatia, Shabnim Ismail, S. Sajana, Amandeep Kaur, Fatima Jaffer, and S.B. Keerthana.

Mooney's return and Litchfield's induction reinforce Gujarat Giants

Mayank Chaudhary

Gujarat Giants got a frustratingly elaborate course in Murphy's Law in the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League. The season got off to a horrendous start with a 143-run drubbing at the hands of Mumbai Indians. The game also saw skipper Beth Mooney sustain a knee injury after facing just three balls, a setback that eventually ruled her out of the season.

Sneh Rana stepped in as the captain but could not arrest Giants' slide. A last-place finish triggered a slew of changes. Eleven out of 19 players were released ahead of the auction. The team also roped in former Australian cricketer Michael Klinger as head coach.

In the auction, Giants broke the bank to rope in uncapped Indian all-rounder Kashvee Gautam for a hefty ₹2 crore sum. An injury ruled out the 20-year-old days before the second edition gets underway in Bengaluru. Australian pacer Lauren Cheatle also had to withdraw after undergoing a procedure for skin cancer.

Not all is lost. Skipper Mooney's return and the addition of Phoebe Litchfield to accompany seasoned South African Laura Wolvaardt is great news for the Giants batting line-up. Harleen Deol, D. Hemalatha and Veda Krishnamurthy's experience and form also bode well for the side.

Kiwi pacer Lea Tahuhu has replaced Cheatle and brings a wealth of experience to the side.

Her Australian teammate Ashleigh Gardner was a vital part of this side, finishing with the second-most wickets for the team (eight). Giants will need her to contribute with the bat too.

The selection of Scotland's Kathryn Bryce allows Giants to field five foreign players. The big challenge will be to zero in on the right playing combination which will have to hit the ground running.

Fresh start: Gardner and Harleen will hope Giants have a better time in Season 2. SPORTZPICS/WPL

Gujarat Giants' fixtures

AT BENGALURU
Feb. 25: vs Mumbai Indians
Feb. 27: Royal Challengers
March 1: UP Warriorz
March 3: Delhi Capitals
AT NEW DELHI
March 6: Royal Challengers
March 9: Mumbai Indians
March 11: UP Warriorz
March 13: Delhi Capitals

Star attraction

Roped in by Giants for ₹1 crore, Phoebe Litchfield, the 20-year-old Australian batter justified the price with a stellar run against India in the multi-format series over the turn of the year

With textbook shots and the ability to score at a brisk rate, Litchfield has also taken to Indian conditions like a fish to water

The squad:

Beth Mooney (Capt.), Ashleigh Gardner, D. Hemalatha, Harleen Deol, Laura Wolvaardt, M.D. Shabnam, Sneh Rana, Tanuja Kanwar, Phoebe Litchfield, Meghna Singh, Trisha Poojitha, Sayali Satghare, Priya Mishra, Kathryn Bryce, Mannat Kashyap, Veda Krishnamurthy, Tarannum Pathan, Lea Tahuhu.

Jacintha is India's first woman curator

Jacintha. X/WPLT20

Sports Bureau

Karnataka State Cricket Association's Jacintha Kalyan has become India's first woman curator and is all set to handle the show at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru for the city's fixtures in the Women's Premier League.

After working in the administrative wing, she decided to switch to curatorship around 2018, learning the ropes from chief curator L. Prashant Rao.

A tough task lies ahead of Jacintha and her team, with 11 days of continuous cricket at the venue before the action moves to New Delhi.

"We have to prepare the pitches after the game for a day match. We can't water the pitch or roll it in the morning as it would be too late... so much of the work needs to happen late in the night around 12-1 a.m. That way, we're set for the day's play," she said.

Ranchi pitch in focus as Rohit and Stokes' men gear up for the crucial fourth Test

ENGLAND IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
RANCHI

With the first three Tests of the ongoing India-England series witnessing action for 12 of the 15 designated days, all talk about the nature of surfaces were put on the backburner. Ahead of the fourth Test at the JSCA Stadium from Friday, however, the pitch is now front and centre.

It is not so much a matter of raging debate, but of intrigue. With Jasprit Bumrah being rested, there is an expectation for the turf to take early turn, something that was missing in Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and Rajkot.

Platey

England batter Ollie Pope did hint in that direction, calling the 22 yards "platey" (presence of flaky layers).

"The pitch looks interesting," he said. "There are quite a few cracks and they aren't just cracks... there are separate bits of ground that could open up with a lot of sun. The ball could deviate more off them if they open up like we expect them to."

This is sure to have a bearing on team selection. India will have to decide if it will bring in an additional spinner in place of Bumrah or trust speedster Mukesh Kumar – who went above five runs an over in Visakhapatnam – to partner Mohammed Siraj and do the job.

The Axar case

In the past, Axar Patel has proved very effective on pitches that offer sharp spin, and has also been selected ahead of left-arm unorthodox bowler Kuldeep Yadav.

The 30-year-old's batting can also come in handy, especially in a side that continues to miss the services of Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul.

But something that India has to be mindful of is the possibility of there being an embarrassment of riches on a helpful track, leading to one of the four spinners being underbowled.

"In India, there will be some help for the spinners," Shubman Gill said. "Batting plans will mostly remain the same. It will depend on who wins the toss.

"If they are batting first, then how our fast bowlers play. Our spinners always do well, be it Ash *bhai* (Ashwin) or Jaddu *bhai* (Jadeja)."

For England, captain Ben Stokes rolling his arm over in the nets on Wednesday presents an all new dimension.

The inspirational leader, who had his left knee operated on in November 2023, last bowled in a competitive fixture in the second Ashes Test at Lord's last summer.

If the England think-tank reads the wicket like Pope did and decides to go with three frontline spinners, Stokes – if cleared by the medical team – could share the pace-bowling load with whoever plays as the lead speedster.

"Stokes [has] got that competitive edge and there's every chance he'll bowl," said Pope.

"But he's not confirmed it yet. We will see how he pulls up."

Different strokes: McCullum will be eager to see Stokes bowl while Jadeja and Ashwin will look to join forces again. K.R. DEEPAK

India loses to Netherlands in shootout

Press Trust of India
ROURKELA

India lost 2-4 against the Netherlands in shootout after its return leg FIH Pro League match ended in a 1-1 draw here on Wednesday. In the first leg in Bhubaneswar, the Indians had defeated the Dutchmen 4-2 in a shootout after a 2-2 stalemate in regulation time.

Netherlands broke the deadlock through Floris Middendorp (fourth minute) before vice-captain Hardik Singh (38th) equalised for India. In the shootout, Araijeet Singh Hundal and Lalit Kumar Upadhyay scored for India while Sukhjeet Singh and Shamsher Singh missed.

The win gave Netherlands two points while India had to be content with one.

In the 27th minute, India sounded the boards through Sukhjeet but the goal was disallowed as the on-field umpire felt that the ball had hit the striker's body.

India will play Australia on Saturday before rounding off its Pro League home campaign against Ireland on Sunday.

Meteors storm past Torpedoes in a thriller

Going all in: Meteors prevailed in a topsy-turvy match. R. RAGU

PVL

Netra V.
CHENNAI

Mumbai Meteors edged past Bengaluru Torpedoes 3-2 in the Prime Volleyball League season three at the SDAT multi-purpose indoor stadium here on Wednesday.

Sethu T.R. ran a riot by claiming four successive points with his serves, which included a super serve, as Bengaluru moved to a 4-0 scoreline. Shubham Chaudhary was on fire for Mumbai. Torpedoes, however, never seemed in trouble and won the first set 15-8.

While the first set was more of a Shubham show, this one saw Shameemudheen join the scoresheet. Despite Torpedoes' combination block by Sethu T.R. and Srajan Shetty, Meteors secured the second set 15-12.

Then, Ajithlal C., Amit Gulia and Saurabh Maan joined the point-scoring party to eventually claim a 15-10 victory. The Torpedoes had improved its defence, and with a spike by Mujeeb M.C., Bengaluru won the fourth set 15-11.

Five successive points in the final set brought Mumbai 14-6 closer to victory. Coincidentally, Sethu, whose serve gained praise in the first set, botched and the Meteors won the set and match 15-9.

The result: Mumbai Meteors bt Bengaluru Torpedoes 3-2 (8-15, 15-12, 15-10, 11-15, 15-9).

INBRIEF

Marsh and David star in Australia's thrilling win

Tim David hit a four off the last ball to give Australia a nail-biting six-wicket victory over New Zealand in the first T20 International in Wellington on Wednesday. Having been set 216 to win, Australia skipper Mitchell Marsh hammered 72 off 44 balls before batting partner David (31 not out) sealed a thrilling last-gasp victory.

The scores: New Zealand 215/3 in 20 overs (Rachin Ravindra 68, Devon Conway 63, Finn Allen 32) lost to Australia 216/4 off 20 overs (Mitchell Marsh 72 n.o. David Warner 32, Tim David 31 n.o.). **Toss:** NZ.

Indian teams lose in the pre-quarters of World team TT

The Indian men's and women's teams bowed out in the pre-quarterfinals of the World team table tennis championships in Busan on Wednesday. The men lost to Korea Republic 3-0, while the women's went down 1-3 to Chinese Taipei.

The results: Men: Pre-quarterfinals: Korea Republic bt India 3-0 (Jang Woojin bt Harmeet Desai 12-10, 13-11, 11-7; Lim Jonghoon bt Sharth Kamal 11-9, 11-5, 8-11, 11-4; Lee Sang Su bt G. Sathiyan 11-5, 11-8, 11-2). **Round of 32:** India bt Kazakhstan 3-2 (Harmeet lost to Kirill Gerassimenko 11-9, 10-12, 8-11, 11-7, 8-11; Sharath bt Alan Kurmangaliyev 6-11, 7-11, 11-7, 13-11, 11-9; Sathiyan bt Aidos Kenzhigulov 11-6, 5-11, 11-2, 11-7; Sharath lost to Kirill 4-11, 9-11, 11-6, 7-11; Harmeet bt Kirill 11-6, 11-8, 8-11, 11-7).
Women: Pre-quarterfinals: Chinese Taipei bt India 3-1 (Chen Szu-Yu lost to Manika Batra 8-11, 11-8, 11-4, 9-11, 9-11; Chen I-Ching bt Sreeja Akula 11-6, 11-9, 11-5; Li Yu-Jhun bt Ayhika Mukherjee 12-10, 15-13, 9-11, 11-2; Chen I-Ching bt Manika 12-10, 5-11, 11-9, 11-5). **Round of 32:** India bt Italy 3-0 (Sreeja bt Nikoleta Stefanova 12-10, 11-6, 11-8; Manika bt Giorgia Piccolin 12-10, 11-6, 11-5; Ayhika bt Gaia Monfardini 15-13, 11-9, 13-15, 11-8).

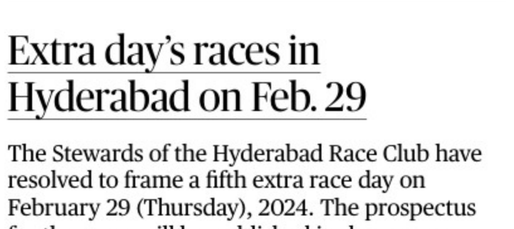
Asian track cycling: India bags a gold, two silver and bronze

The Indian women's junior sprint team of Sarita Kumari, Niya Sebastian, and Zaina Mohammed Ali Pirkhan outshone Korea to secure gold in the Asian track cycling championships in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Other Indian medallists: Silver: Para team sprint: Arshad Shaikh, Jalaluddin Ansari and Basavaraj Horaddi; **junior team sprint:** Narayan Mahto, Syed Khalid Baghi and Mayanglambam Wattaba Meitei.
Bronze: Junior women's team pursuit: Harshita Jakhar, Suhani Kumari, Dhanyadha and Bhumika.

Haaland puts Manchester City within a point of Liverpool

Erling Haaland erased any questions about his scoring touch on Tuesday, netting Manchester City's only goal (71st minute) in a 1-0 victory over Brentford that lifted it into second place in the Premier League table, just one point behind leader Liverpool. Pep Guardiola's team has 56 points, one ahead of Arsenal.



Croatian tennis star Karlovic announces retirement

The 6 foot, 11-inch Croatian Ivo Karlovic has officially announced his retirement from tennis after having not played a tournament match in two-and-a-half-years.

Nagal drops out of top-100 in ATP rankings

India's top singles tennis player Sumit Nagal has dropped out of top-100 after losing 16 points, resulting in him sliding three spots to 101 in the latest ATP rankings.In doubles, Rohan Bopanna continued to be World No. 1 player.

Extra day's races in Hyderabad on Feb. 29

The Stewards of the Hyderabad Race Club have resolved to frame a fifth extra race day on February 29 (Thursday), 2024. The prospectus for the same will be published in due course.

Inter holds advantage over Atletico; PSV-Dortmund clash ends in a draw

Arnautovic scores the winner with 11 minutes left at the San Siro; de Jong and Malen find the net in Eindhoven

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agencies
MILAN

Marko Arnautovic gave Inter Milan a single-goal advantage in its Champions League last-16 tie with Atletico Madrid after netting the only goal in Tuesday's hard-fought 1-0 win.

Austria striker Arnautovic rammed home Inter's winner with 11 minutes left at the San Siro after Jan Oblak failed to hold Lautaro Martinez's shot.

Jeers into cheers
The 34-year-old turned jeers into deafening cheers with his goal, which came after a series of missed opportunities left home fans wondering whether Inter would get the win its performance deserved.

Making a difference: Arnautovic netted the crucial goal for Inter Milan. AP

His worst miss came just after the hour mark as he ballooned over a sitter, a dreadful finish which came before and after failed attempts to latch on to promising balls.

Arnautovic has had a hard time since returning to Inter on loan from Bologna last summer and those misses further frustrated supporters.

However, thanks to him Simone Inzaghi's side now takes a slender lead to Madrid, where it will face Atletico in the decisive second leg on March 13.

Atletico has been a more attacking proposition this season but retreated into the defensive mode more representative of Diego Simeone's long reign in Spain.

But it could not keep Inter out and now have to overturn Tuesday's result in order to advance to the quarter-finals.

In another match, Luuk de Jong converted a penalty to cancel out a goal by his former teammate Donyell Malen as PSV Eindhoven and Borussia Dortmund drew 1-1.

Malen scored against his old club in the 24th minute with a shot that appeared to deflect off the outstretched leg of defender Sergino Dest.

De Jong equalised when he calmly slotted a low penalty past Alexander Meyer in the 56th minute after Mats Hummels had brought down Malik Tillman.

Record tally
It took De Jong's Champions League goals tally to a PSV record nine, one more than Ruud van Nistelrooy.

Dest came close to snatching a late winner when he passed Julian Ryerson on the left but Meyer, a late replacement for the injured Gregor Kobel, saved his shot.

The results:
Round-of-16 (first leg): Inter Milan 1 (Arnautovic 79) bt Atletico Madrid 0.
PSV 1 (de Jong 56-pen) drew with Borussia Dortmund 1 (Malen 24).

Joyous: The Indian women celebrate. X@INDIANFOOTBALL

Manisha's brace seals India's win over Estonia

TURKISH WOMEN'S CUP

Press Trust of India
ALANYA

India withstood a late charge by Estonia to post a hard-fought 4-3 win in the Turkish Women's Cup football on Wednesday, creating history with the side's first victory against an European nation.

The result: India 4 (Manisha 17, 81, Indumathi Kathiresan 62, Pyari Xaxa 79) bt Estonia 3 (Lisette Tammik 32, Vlada Kubassova 88, Mari Liis Lillemae 90).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Ex State hockey player Arumugam passes away
Former Karnataka State hockey player K. Arumugam passed away. He represented Karnataka in the 1980s. The Karnataka State Hockey Association (KSHA) condoled his demise.

DYES wallops KSP
DYES whipped Karnataka State Police 8-2 in the 24th Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa memorial hockey tournament here.
The results: DYES 8 (Desh Poovaiah 20, 49, 54, Aryan Uthappa 39, 44, 58, Sukalyan Mondal 47, Deepak Yadav 51) bt Karnataka State Police 2 (B. Manikanta 17, Prajwal 32). SWR (Hubballi) 3 (N. Kumar 41, K.R. Bharath 51, 53) bt Canara Bank 2 (Satwick 15, Pradhan Somanna 29); Rail Wheel Factory 3 (S.P. Deekshith 15, 35, Ramesha 53) bt SAI 2 (B.P. Sunil 11, K.J. Pavan 44).

Big win for Parikrma
Parikrma FC defeated Bangalore Gunners 4-1 in the BDFA 'A' division football league here.
The results: Parikrma FC 4 (Syed Ahmed 40, 45, 71, 80) bt Bangalore Gunners FC 1 (Vinoth Kumar 6); ADE FC 1 (Ratanbi Singh 75) drew with Jawahar Union FC 1 (Thomas Jacob 28).

Zeel Desai enters the second round in Thailand

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Zeel Desai beat Tyra Lithiby 6-3, 6-4 in the first round of the $15,000 ITF women's tennis in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand.

The results:
$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Jacopo Bilardo (Ita) & Chirag Duhan bt Lorenzo Carboni & Gianluca Carlini (Ita) 7-6(1), 6-4.
$15,000 ITF, Nakhon Si Thammarat:
Men: First round: Mitsuki Leong (Mas) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 7-6(5), 6-2.
Women: First round: Zeel Desai bt Tyra Lithiby (Tha) 6-3, 6-4.
Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Ashmitha Easwaramurthi & Jennifer Luikham bt Han Xinyun & Zhang Jiale (Chn) 7-5, 3-6, [10-5].
$15,000 ITF men, Villena, Spain: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Liam Gavrielides (GEr) & Alejo Quilez (Esp) bt Raghav Harsh & Kuang Qing Xu (Can) 6-2, 6-2.
$15,000 ITF women, Sharm El Sheikh: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Flavie Brugnone (Fra) & Tanisha Kashyap bt Sara Milanese & Anastasia Piangerelli (Ita) 6-4, 4-6, [10-8].

LIVE TELECAST

PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 & 8.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Friday)

Singular focus: Bhui's target has been to keep getting runs. B. MADHU

Bhui turns a new leaf for a 'breakthrough season'

Shayan Acharya
INDORE

Ricky Bhui has been featuring in First Class cricket for a decade now, but the Andhra captain believes that this edition of the Ranji Trophy has been a 'breakthrough season' for him.

The 27-year-old wicketkeeper-batter has been a standout performer in the tournament so far, amassing 861 runs and emerging as the top-scorer in Elite Group. Leading from the front, he also played a key role in guiding Andhra to the knockouts.

"I always thought that I needed a breakthrough season. People often told me that I have not been able to justify my talent. I have realised that as a middle-order batter in India, you have to keep getting runs," Bhui told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

"Over the last couple of years, Sarfaraz (Khan) kept piling runs and, eventually, his hard work paid off. Likewise, my target has been to keep batting and keep getting runs. I think this has been that breakthrough season for so far."

When Andhra faces Madhya Pradesh at the Holkar Stadium from Friday, it will be sort of a re-match of last year's Ranji Trophy quarterfinals, where the latter had the last laugh.

"I have already told the team that we need to overcome this mental barrier and not think about what happened last year. The teams and circumstances were different then, but now, things are completely different," Bhui said.

Early in his career, Bhui was often labelled as a T20 specialist, but over the years, he worked hard on his batting to change the perception. "For me, it has been about unlocking my game. I made the bowlers bowl from a shorter distance and played on different surfaces, and those things eventually helped me," he said. "Playing on different surfaces gave me some extra time to judge the ball and boosted my confidence that I won't give away my wicket easily..."

Three centuries and as many fifty-plus scores in the tournament is a testament to his hard work and determination.

Vamshhi Krishna.

Vamshhi smashes six sixes in an over!

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

Andhra wicketkeeper-batter Vamshhi Krishna slammed six sixes in an over during his knock of 110 (64b, 9x4, 10x6) against Railways in the Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy (u-23) at Kadapa.

Vamshhi, who hails from Guntur, performed the feat in the 10th over of the innings, the bowler to suffer being leg-spinner Damandeep Singh.

After Andhra was bowled out for 378, Railways amassed 865 for nine (declared), the highest in the C.K. Nayudu Trophy eclipsing Punjab's 841 for nine against New Delhi in 2017-18 at Mohali.

The scores:
Andhra 378 in 93.5 overs (Vamshhi Krishna 110, Vamsi Krishna 55, S. Venkata Rahul 66 n.o.) drew with Railways 865/9 decl. in 231 overs (Ansh Yadav 268, Ravi Singh 258, Anchit Yadav 133, Toufik Uddin 87).

Memorable occasion: The National champions in the two-wheeler and four wheeler categories at the awards ceremony.

FMSCI's annual awards function honours 105 champions

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The annual awards function of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI) was held at Hotel Trident here on Wednesday.

The ceremony honored 105 national champions across various disciplines in two-wheeler and four-wheeler categories.

It also recognised promoters and sponsors for their contributions.

Special awards were presented to Harith Noah and Prarthana Murugavel for their achievements in international competitions.

Harith won the rally Class 2 and finished 11th overall in the Dakar 2024 Rally, while Prarthana won the Karting Slalom gold at the FIA Asia-Pacific Motorsport Championship.

Ten-year-old boy Rivaan Dev Preetham received an award for winning the Micro Max title in the MECO-FMSCI Rotax Max National Karting Championship.

New league
Speaking at the event, FMSCI president Akbar Ebrahim announced plans to launch a two-wheeler racing league this year, in addition to the existing 2W Indian Supercross Racing League (ISRL) and Indian Racing League (4W).

These franchise-based leagues will help expand the Indian motorsport horizon.

GOVT. OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
DRAINAGE CIRCLE, UNIT-8, BHUBANESWAR-751012
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.ACEDC-BBSR-10/2023-24
email Id :- sedrainagebbsr12@gmail.com

1.	Total number of Works	:	2 no. of works as mentioned below.
2.	Name of Works	:	1. IMPROVEMENT TO DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF CHINGUDI NALLA AND ITS STRUCTURES UNDER CHIKITI ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY OF GANJAM DISTRICT. 2. IMPROVEMENT TO MACHHUA NALLA AND ITS STRUCTURES IN DOAB - XVII UNDER SANAKHEMUNDI ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY IN GANJAM DISTRICT
3.	Estimated Cost	:	1.Rs.2,97,09,793.00, 2.Rs.1,13,76,048.00
4.	Bid Identification No.	:	ACEDC-BBSR/DD-BAM-22/2023-24 ; ACEDC-BBSR/DD-BAM-23/2023-24
5.	Period of completion	:	11 (Eleven) Calendar months
6.	Class of Contractor	:	'B' & 'A' Class (Odisha PWD or relevant class of other licensing Authority)
7.	Date & time of availability of Bid Document in the Portal	:	23.02.2024, 11.00 Hours to 11.03.2024, 17.00 Hours.
8.	Date & time of receipt of Bids in the portal	:	23.02.2024, 11.00 Hours to 11.03.2024, 17.00 Hours.
9.	Last date & time of receipt of Bids in the portal.	:	11.03.2024, 17.00 Hours.
10.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid.	:	12.03.2024 at 11.00 hours in the O/o the Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar.
11.	Date of Opening of financial Bid	:	To be uploaded in Portal after evaluation of technical bids.
12.	Date of Lottery (If required)	:	To be intimated to the responsive bidders through their Registered E-Mail IDs
13.	Bid Security	:	1. Rs.2,97,098.00; 2. Rs.1,13,760.00
14.	Cost of Tender Paper	:	Rs.10,000/-
15.	Procurement Officer	:	Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar-751012

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. Addendum / Corrigendum/ Cancellation if any required will be published only in Govt. web site **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Bhubaneswar

A-1577 : OIPR-32375/11/0011/2324

OSRTC
ODISHA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, BHUBANESWAR
No: 208 / OSRTC Date:19.02.2024
Request for Proposal (RFP)

The Chairman-Cum-Managing Director, Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC), Bhubaneswar has invited a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Parking Fee Collection Agency under Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) through the transparent bidding process.

The interested firms/ agencies should submit their proposals from **Dt 19.02.2024 to Dt. 26.02.2024 up to 2:00 PM** and the same will be opened on **Dt 26.02.2024 at 4:00 PM** at OSRTC conference hall.

For any doubt, agencies/ firms may contact concern section to address the issue during office hours.

The details of the terms & conditions are available on the web site: **www.osrtc.in**.

The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

By order of the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Additional Secretary, OSRTC.

CAD-4221: OIPR-38002/11/0095/2324

E-mail.ID-sectcrb_2006@yahoo.co.in ; Tel/Fax – 0671-2301751/2302751
Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK
('e' – PROCUREMENT NOTICE)
Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc.(R&B)42/2023-24

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building work as mentioned below.
2. No. of work : 01 No.
3. Nature of work : Building Work.
4. Class of contractor : 'A' & Special Class
5. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10000/- (Online)
6. Available of bid document in the web site : From 23.02.2024 to 17.30 Hours of 06.03.2024
7. Date of opening of bid : Dt. 07.03.2024 at 11.00 Hours.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle

B-1785: OIPR-34012/11/0069/2324

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No. Civil/EST-60/2023-24
TCN No.5697, dt.20.02.2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of IMIT at Cuttack, Odisha, Phase - I (MCA Block, Admin Block, Boys Hostel G+3, Girls Hostel G+3, External Development, Guard Room).
2. Value of the Work : Rs.49.59 Crore
3. Period of completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
   i. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of Dt. 28.02.2024
   ii. End Date : 15:00 Hours of dt. 20.03.2024
   iii. Opening date : 16:00 Hours of dt. 20.03.2024.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website**.

CAD-4249: Sd/- Chief General Manager (Civil), IDCO, Bhubaneswar OIPR-14003/11/0414/2324

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
PROJECTS CIRCLE, CHENNAI-16

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. 21/2023-2024/SDO/Dated. 20.02.2024

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu **Two Item Rate tenders** through online only will be received upto **02.04.2024, 14.00 hours** by the **Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Chennai** for **One Road Over Bridge work** in respect of **Vellore (H) Projects Division** under the **Railway Works Programme 2008-09** and **One Road Over Bridge work (Balance work) in respect of Chennai (H) Projects Division** under the **Railway Works Programme 2007-08.**

Details of Name of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **28.02.2024,** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc. to the tender, it will be published on the above Government website only.

For Superintending Engineer (H), Projects Circle, Chennai-16.

DIPR/1102/Tender/2024

Government of Odisha,
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.
E-mail Id: serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com
Bid Identification No. Bridge Tender Online RWCSBP-67/2023-24
No : 758, Dated : 20.02.2024

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate Bid from experienced & eligible bidders for **02 (Two) nos of Bridge work** under Biju Setu Yojana for the year 2023-24.

1. Name of work : Bridge works under BSY for the year 2023-24.
2. No of work : 02 (Two) nos of Bridge works Details as per DTCN
3. Estimated Cost : Approximately Cost Rs.361.72 lakhs to Rs.557.04 Lakhs.
4. Class of Contractor : 'A' Class
5. Cost of tender paper and mode of deposit : Rs.10,000/- per set.(to be deposited On-line) in favour of concerned Executive Engineer.
6. Mode of submission of tender : Tender should be submitted only On line in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in .(https//tendersodisha.gov.in)
7. EMD and mode of deposit : 1% of estimated cost of the work to be remitted online as mentioned in DTCN.
8. Summary of Key dates are provided below :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time for seeking clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.	Bridge Tender Online - RWCSBP-67/2023-24	26.02.2024 From 11.00.A.M.	11.03.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	07.02.2024 up to 5.00.P.M.	12.03.2024 at 11.00.A.M.	Will be intimated later

* Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in. (https//tendersodisha.gov.in)**
* Subsequent modification/ corrigendum/Addendum if required shall appear in website only.
* The amount put to bid is exclusive of GST.
* Bidder should inspect the road before bidding and quote his rate accordingly.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.

O-2583 : OIPR-25091/11/0101/2324

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

S. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
1	SE/Transmission-II	T.2304, T.2305	2
2	CE/TP-II/Trichy	E-10, E-11, E-12, E-13, C-30, C-31, C-32, C-33	8
3	CE/TP-I/Chennai	TP1-81/2023-24	1
Due Date Extension			
1	CE/SO/Chennai	E.05/23-24	1

For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** DIPR/1087/Tender/2024

BANGALORE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Mechanical Engg. Dept., K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-27, Tele No: 080-22537519.
TENDER NO: BMTC/2023-24/IND0052/CALL-2 Dated: 21.02.2024
SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through e-procurement mode only)

(1) BMTC invites Tender through E-Procurement Portal for Supply of 820 Nos. Diesel fuelled BS-VI fully built city type buses.

(2) Last Date for Bid Submission in e-procurement portal is **28.02.2024** before **16.30 Hrs.**

Any changes in calendar of events, scope or other terms & conditions will be uploaded in e-portal only.

NOTE: Interested Bidders need to register in the GoK e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further assistance, contact e-procurement Help Desk for support on bid submission over Ph: **080-46010000,** or **080-68948777** or email at **eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com.**

Sd/- CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER (Tender Inviting Authority)

CENTRAL PULP & PAPER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SAHARANPUR, U.P. - 247001
(An Autonomous Organization under DPIIT Ministry of Commerce and Industry,Govt. of India)
Himmat Nagar, Star Paper Mills Road, Saharanpur (U.P.)-247001
Website: www.cppri.res.in.
Phone No. (0132) 2714059, 2714061, 2704062

Vacancy Notice
Advertisement No.01/2024
Dated:20.02.2024

Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute (CPPRI), Saharanpur invites application from the aspiring and eligible candidates for filling up 2 (two posts) of Section Officers under UR (Unreserved) category.

Section Officer-2 (two posts) (2 UR) in PML- 8 **(Rs. 47600-151100)** on Direct Recruitment basis.

The qualification & experience and other terms & conditions as mentioned in the datailed advertisement hoisted in the Institute Website **(www.cppri.res.in)**

Last date for submission of application for the above posts is 30 (thirty) days from the date of publication of this advertisement in Employment News. Applications from North-East/Andman Nicobar Islands are given an extra time of (10 days) from the last date of submission of applications.

HEAD ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-41 / 2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below:
2. Nature of work : Road works
3. No. of work : 2 Nos.
4. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : Special Class / Super Class
6. Available of bid document in the website. : From 10.00 A.M. of 23.02.2024 to 04.30 PM of 11.03.2024.
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.11.03.2024 at 4.35 PM
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in** . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha(I/C)
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-1789 : OIPR-34117/11/0112/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P.(O) - 56 / 2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer (Bridges), World Bank Project, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Construction of Road & Bridge work as detailed below:
2. Nature of work : Bridge Works
3. No. of work : 02 nos.
4. Tender Cost : Rs.10,000.00 (On-line)
5. Class of Contractor : Special / Super Class Contractor
6. Available of bid document in the website : From 10.00 A.M. of 19.02.2024 to 5.00 PM of 06.03.2024
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.07.03.2024 at 11.30 AM
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in** . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Engineer-in-Chief
(I/C) Chief Engineer (Bridges), WBP, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-1783 OIPR-34174/11/0004/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR.
e - Procurement NOTICE

1.	Name of Work	:	Construction and Maintenance of PWD Road to Chandrali Hill road in the district of Bolangir under MMSY-TRIP for the year 2023-24
2.	No. of Work	:	1 (Nine) Road work.
3.	Time for Completion varies from	:	6 calendar months
4.	Approximate Estimated Cost varies from	:	Rs.271.40 lakhs
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	:	Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6.	Other details are as follow		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir.	BLGR-Online-52/2023-24	26.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	12.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	11.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	13.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders later on

- Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

Chief Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir

O-2597 : OIPR-25118/11/0082/2324

E-mail : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.

Repair and Maintenance of Rural Roads Under PMGSY & Other Scheme
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. CCERWCSBD Online - 61/2023-24

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites **percentage rate** bids in electronic tendering system for **Repair/Maintenance of the Rural roads Constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana** in the districts of **Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabrangpur & Rayagada for 29 (Twenty Nine)** number of packages with estimated cost totaling to **Rs.31.51 Cr** including maintenance for five year from the eligible contractors registered with **State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways**. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement.**dtd.19/02/2024.**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission : The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda & Superintending Engineer / Executive Engineer of the concerned Division**, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non- responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 04/03/2024 upto 5.00 PM

For further details please log on to **http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**.

Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.

O-2560 : OIPR-25182/11/0067/2324

SNAPSHOTS

Kerala starts with a bang in Santosh Trophy

YUPIA (ARUNACHAL PRADESH): Kerala picked up a comfortable win by downing Assam 3-1 in its opening Group A league match of the 77th National Football Championship, for the Santosh Trophy, at the Golden Jubilee Stadium here on Wednesday. In another match, Services found the winner late in the injury-time off Shafeel P.P. to beat last year's runner-up Meghalaya 1-0.

The results: Services 1 (Shafeel P.P. 90+5) bt Meghalaya 0; Kerala 3 (Abdu Raheem K. 19, Sajeesh E. 67, Nijo Gilbert 90+5) bt Assam 1 (Dipu Mirdha 77); Goa 3 (Necio Fernandes 20, Mahammed Faheez 73, Joshua D'Silva 76) drew with Arunachal Pradesh 3 (Rahul Singpho 25, 90+6, Tame Agung 62).

Tejaswin finishes fourth

NEHVIZDY (CZECH REPUBLIC): After opening his season with 2.23m on February 10, National high jump record-holder Tejaswin Shankar finished fourth with 2.22m in the Hvezdy v Nehvizdech meet – a World Athletics Indoor Tour-silver event – here on Tuesday.

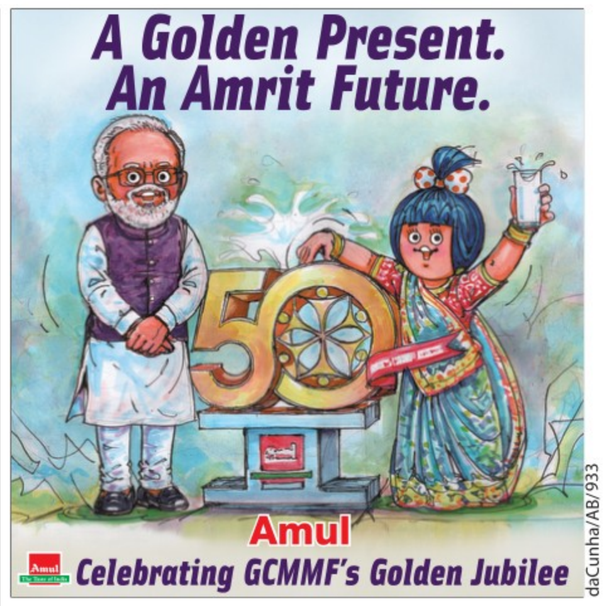
South Korea's Woo Sang-hyeok, the World Indoor champion and last year's Diamond League Final winner, took gold with 2.25m while the next three all spots went at 2.22.

Quartermiler Anjali Devi banned for four years after failing dope test

KOCHI: The National Anti-Doping Agency has banned Anjali Devi, the country's fastest quartermiler last year, for four years for failing a dope test in June 2023.

Anjali's name now figures in the list of athletes sanctioned by the NADA's Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel, updated on Tuesday night, with the mention that she had tested positive for GW1516, which is prohibited at all times under metabolic modulators on the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Prohibited List.

Her four-year suspension began on July 7, 2023.



Mukund cruises into the quarterfinals

MAHA OPEN

Kamesh Srinivasan
PUNE

Wildcard entrant S. Mukund continued to play a robust game as he outclassed qualifier Felix Gill of Britain 6-1, 6-0 in the pre-quarterfinals of the $133,250 Maha Open Challenger tennis tournament at the Balewadi Stadium on Wednesday.

It was a clinical show as the 27-year-old Indian fired nine aces and, more importantly, conceded only five points in his service games in the whole match. He returned brilliantly and converted five of seven break-points while racing to victory. For the second match running, Mukund did not face a single break-point on his serve.

In the quarterfinals, Mukund will play Aussie third seed Adam Walton who sweated it out against Tung-Lin Wu of Chinese Taipei.

Saketh Myneni and Ramkumar Ramanathan, the champions in Chennai and Bengaluru, played strong at the crunch to beat second seeds Piotr Matuszewski and Matthew Romios in straight sets.

Top seeds Arjun Kadhe and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan combined nicely to outsmart Rithvik Bollipalli and Niki Poonacha for the loss of six games.

The results
(pre-quarterfinals):
Singles: Valentin Vacherot (Mon) bt Tristan Schoolkate (Aus) 6-1, 6-2; Enzo Couacaud (Fra) bt Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) 6-4, 5-7, 4-1 (retd.); S Mukund bt Felix Gill (GBR) 6-1, 6-0; Adam Walton (Aus) bt Tung-Lin Wu (Tpe) 6-0, 6-7(5), 7-6(4).
Doubles: Arjun Kadhe & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Rithvik Bollipalli & Niki Poonacha 6-3, 6-3; Jakob Schnaitter & Mark Wallner (Ger) bt Ray Ho (Tpe) & Calum Puttergill (Aus) 7-6(4), 6-4; Dan Added (Fra) & Yunseong Chung (Kor) bt Francis Casey Alcantara (Phi) & Kaichi Uchida (Jpn) 6-2, 6-2; Duje Ajdukovic (Cro) & Enrico Dalla Valle (Ita) bt Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) & Dane Sweeny (Aus) 7-5, 6-3; Saketh Myneni & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Piotr Matuszewski (Pol) & Matthew Romios (Aus) 7-6(5), 6-4.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Construction Organisation, Ernakulam Jn.

1. Tender Notice No.04-CE-CN-ERS-2024-GC Dt.02.02.2024
Name of work: Appointment of General Consultant.
Tender Value: Rs.879.62 Lakhs.
Bid Security: Rs.5,89,800/-
Completion Period: 36 Months.
Date and time of tender closing: 15.03.2024

2. Tender Notice No.05-CE-CN-ERS-2024-OT Dt.17.02.2024
Name of work: Proposed reconstruction of Br.No.1047, Br.No.1087, 1144 & 1090
Tender Value: Rs.868.13 Lakhs.
Bid Security: Rs.5,84,100/-
Completion Period: 12 Months.
Date and time of tender closing: 12.03.2024

Complete details and tender document will be available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Engineer/Construction/ Ernakulam Jn.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (ELEC)-I **Re-e-AUCTION NOTICE** Auction ID:23472

Scrap materials in total 2 (Two) lots of Assorted Tubular poles, MS/GI Pipes, AB Switches, AMF & Distribution panels and single phase and 3 Phase motors, Motor staters etc., and Assorted Ceiling fans, Pedestal fans , Exhaust fans, Wall mounting fans, Water coolers, Water Heaters, Refrigerators & Air coolers etc. ., accumulated as on 28.09.2023 at DPW Stores (Elec), Near TTD Press, Opp. TTD Administrative Building, Tirupati, will be sold through e-auction to be conducted through **https:konugolu.ap.gov.in/** (A government of India enterprise) on **29-02-2024.**

For further details visit https://konugolu.ap.gov.in/
Contact Phone Nos.9959988454, 9704678540, 9491454257

Roc.No.PR4/13963/Adv.No.381/PRO/2024, Dated:21-02-2024 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Only through KPP portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage tender system from registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Project) 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
	IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE(Cstr&DCW)/TA/1862/2023-24 Dated 21.02.2024	
1.	Procurement of 257Nos of 50mm dia & 175nos of 80mm dia Removable Mechanism Type Water Meters conforming to IS:2373/1981 Or ISO:4064/1/EEC/MID	Rs.1,19,05,968/- / Rs.1,79,000/-
	IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE(Cstr&DCW)/TA/1863/2023-24 Dated 21.02.2024	
2.	Procurement of 60Nos of 300mm dia Removable Mechanism Type Water Meters conforming to IS:2373/1981 Or ISO:4064/1/EEC/MID its latest ammendments	Rs.1,51,37,940/- / Rs.2,28,000/-
	IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE(Cstr&DCW)/TA/1864/2023-24 Dated 21.02.2024	
3.	Procurement of 4433Nos of 20mm dia & 2597Nos of 25mm dia Multi Jet Class "B" Magnetic Type Water Meters conforming to IS:779/1994 Or ISO:4064/1/EEC/MID its latest amendments	Rs.2,45,13,497/- / Rs.3,68,000/-

For the above all the works the last date for submission of completed tender documents is on **28.02.2024 before 16:00 Hrs.** Technical Tender will be opened on **29.02.2024 at 17:00 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Project)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/3784/KAVITA/23-24

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC)
Central Store Department, Pimpri, Pune- 411018

Tender For
Selection of vendor for carrying out a turnkey project for Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD) at 4 Hospitals of PCMC
E Tender No - 24/2023-24

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) manages primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities. PCMC wants to revamp the Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) at New Thergaon Hospital, Jijamata Hospital, Bhosari Hospital and Akurdi Hospital and intend to procure complete unit, comprising of all the equipment for CSSD, air cooling system, interior solutions, civil construction work and finishing works on turnkey basis. The upgrade in facility will support in providing better services for the citizens.

The estimate cost of the project is about Rs 32,10,88,123/- and duration of work is 730 days.

In that context, PCMC invites interested entities having experience as envisaged in the Tender document, to submit their proposal. Interested entities can download the Tender document from the website https://mahatenders.gov.in. Interested entites shall make online payment of Rs 47,040 /- towards the cost of Tender document and bid security / earnest money deposit of Rs 32,10,881/- at the time of submission of its proposal through the e tendering systems.

Pre- bid conference will be arranged on 28/02/2024. The pre bid meeting will be held at PCMC Main Building, Central Store Department. The Last date of submission of bid will be 13/03/2024.

Sd/-
Commissioner
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation
Pimpri - 411018

Advt.No. 558

Shri Narendrabhai Modi
Honourable Prime Minister of India

Shri Amitbhai Shah
Honourable Minister of Home Affairs &
Minister of Cooperation, Government of India

Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel
Honourable Chief Minister,
Government of Gujarat

IT TAKES THE WORLD'S

LARGEST DAIRY COOPERATIVE,

TO MAKE INDIA THE WORLD'S

LARGEST MILK PRODUCER.

On the occasion of 50 years of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, Amul & 36 lac women farmers warmly welcome & felicitate **Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi**.

Every morning 36 lac women milk farmers bring in milk worth ₹ 200 crores that is converted into butter, ghee, buttermilk, cheese, ice creams, chocolates, health beverages and several other delicious & healthy products. Empowered by the cooperative that strengthens, respects & brings prosperity to the women & the Taste of India to over 140 crore Indians. Bringing alive the vision of Amrit Kaal and looking ahead to Amul being the dairy to the world.

50 YEARS OF GCMMF

SAHKAR SE SAMRIDDHI

22nd February, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Narendra Modi Stadium,
Ahmedabad

सहकारी दूध वितरण संघ 50 गुजरात

Amul
The Taste of India